

<b>BLD SCHEDULE</b>				
<b>Month of November 2009</b>				
<b>Day</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Venue</b>
6 Fri	8:00 PM	11:00 PM	Eucharistic Celebration	OLA Church
11 Wed	7:45 PM	10:45 PM	Mission Assembly	OLA Basement
13 Fri	8:00 PM	11:00 PM	Corporate Praise and Worship	OLA Church
13–15			Toronto Marriage Encounter #31	Mount Mary Immaculate
20 Fri	8:00 PM	11:00 PM	Corporate Praise and Worship	OLA Church
21–22			Toronto Planning Session	TBA
24 Tue	2:00 PM	4:00 PM	Mission—Serve Meals	Good Shepherd Centre
27 Fri	8:00 PM	11:00 PM	Corporate Praise and Worship	OLA Church

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **from the Marriage and Family Life Apostolate**



This is the final week prior to the actual *MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER #31 WEEKEND PROPER*, to be held on *November 13-15, 2009*, at the Mount Mary Retreat Center.

On behalf of the Sponsoring Class, ME Class #30, we wish to thank everyone for all your prayers and support to make this encounter an unforgettable and fruitful experience in the lives of our candidates. We also want to invite you all to join us in the Eucharistic celebration that Sunday, November 15, 2009.

Lastly, we want to request those who signed up as auxies for the ME weekend to gather in Room 4 after the Mass for a short briefing.

Thank you and may God bless us all.



[www.bldworld.org](http://www.bldworld.org)

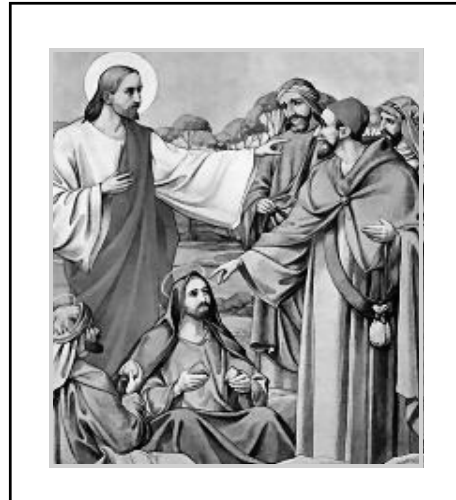


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**November 6, 2009**

**BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS • OPEN IN SPIRIT TO GOD**  
**Toronto District**

**Counsel for the Thirty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time**



### ORDER:

“Do not be afraid” (1 Kings 17:13)

### REFLECTION:

The Gospel of Mark and the First Book of Kings calls us to give generously of ourselves even when we are experiencing personal lack and extreme difficulty. St. Mark and the prophets used the story of the two widows to teach us the kind of giving most pleasing to God and the reward that awaits those who obey. True giving is providing first for the needs of others before our very own just as the widow at Zarepath sacrificed her last meal and her son’s and gave it to a stranger regardless of whether they will have anything to eat in the days to follow. It is laying aside our fears by acknowledging our dependence on God and trust on his ability to provide and care for his people at all times. The widow simply trusted Elijah believing that “the jar of meal will not be

*(Reflection Continued on page 2)*

### THEME:

We have the righteousness of Christ when we give unselfishly, trusting in God’s provision.

### WORD:

1 Kings 17:10-16; Psalm 146: 7-10; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

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emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until that day when the Lord God sends the rain on the earth". She believed Elijah not out of desperation or confidence in the prophet. It is her great faith in the Lord that has sustained her. It is in knowing that God will help lift the burden from her that compels her to continue to dipping into her meagre resources for days and share it surprisingly without running out of food.

Sacrificial giving, as described in Mark's Gospel, is the act of obedience and total surrender to God. It is following the example of the other widow who gives everything to God, gives everything that she had ever owned, gives even her last coin not out of duty or grudging obligation but as an act of faith, as a sign of generosity, a sign of gratitude and as a pledge of love to our Great Provider. It is the spirit by which her offering was given and not the amount that made her offering a gift worth giving to God. Any gift offered to God has eternal value in God's kingdom if given with the right attitude and the sincerity of heart. God will use his gift, whether big or small and multiply it for his eternal purposes. A true giver is one who puts everything he has to God's disposal and shares his resources until it truly hurts. There is no holding back in giving to God knowing that he gave his most precious possession, his only son, that we might be saved.

St. Mark further reminds us not to be like the Pharisees who drop their offerings to be noticed. One is exhorted to give not to be seen, or expect any reward or recognition. One gives out of love for God and the people he loves. A true disciple must live God's generosity in his life because of the great desire to honour God and shape the lives of the people God has brought to his care.

**DIRECTION:**

- ❖ Give without expecting any returns.
- ❖ Trust in God's provision.

**GOD'S PROMISE:**

For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: "the jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth." (1Kings 17:13b)

## **Toronto Teaching Schedule**

*For a complete and up to date Teaching Schedule, visit ~ [www.bldtoronto.com](http://www.bldtoronto.com)*

### ***Pastoral Services: leading the way to Christian maturity for all BLD Covenanted and Committed Disciples. (An Introduction to the newly reinstated Pastoral Services Ministry in Toronto)***

As a community, we are committed to nurturing and caring for each other; thus bringing to full maturity in Christ all those whom the Holy Spirit has entrusted to the community. St Paul in Ephesians 4:1 begs us to "lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called." On this basis, the Pastoral Services Ministry is mandated to oversee the Pastoral Care Program of BLD.

Christian maturity is the end result of Pastoral Care. The journey of attaining "fullness of Christ" is a continuing one. Christian maturity, in its core, is the action of the Holy Spirit upon the person who fully opens his mind, heart and will to God's grace and power. The BLD Pastoral Care program provides the channel by which the Holy Spirit could fill in that gap between what we can do and what we must do, and empower us to act in accordance with the standards of Christ.

The Pastoral Services Ministry is entrusted with the delicate task of leading covenanted and committed disciples to Christian maturity, which the Ministry hopes to achieve by providing training and support to Circle Shepherds and Ministry Heads. This, in turn, will give them the tools they need to carry out their shepherding duties and responsibilities. There is an urgent need to build up these circles (the basic unit of the community) through monitoring and nurturing the spiritual and natural gifts of each member. By actively doing so, we could assist each member to grow in their personal relationships with the Lord, strengthen the BLD community as a whole, and be more effective "doers of the Word". (James 1:22)

The **WORD SHARING CIRCLE** is the primary forum for the Pastoral Care Program. Based on the BLD Guidelines in the Pastoral Care Handbook, Circle Members will:

- ❖ gather together every week to learn and apply the Word of God in their personal, family, vocational and, more importantly, in the Community and in the Church;
- ❖ to minister to each other's needs and burdens;
- ❖ to encourage each other in the exercise of spiritual and natural gifts; and
- ❖ to build sound interpersonal relationships with the Lord.

Simply put, the **WORD SHARING CIRCLE** is a forum by which BLD members share, based on the liturgical readings, how God's love has touched their lives and how they can help each other live by the norms of the Gospel.

Over the last 19 years, the members of the BLD Covenant Community in Toronto have thrived well in serving both the community and parishes. It is our hope that the Pastoral Services Ministry could help further equip the BLD members for the work of the ministry they are assigned to, which is aimed at building up the body of Christ.

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### 3rd week: Accountability

The third Sunday speaks of end times and of the coming of Jesus. **“And they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory...”** (Mk 13:25). This seems imminent. Note that in the preceding verse, Jesus vividly describes the great tribulation that will precede his coming. And so, we need to be ready for that day, **“But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”** (Mk13: 32). Jesus is forewarning us because of His love for us. He wants us to be with Him in paradise. And the time to act is now, when we are still able to redress ourselves and strive to be worthy children of a glorious God, saints who have been washed clean by the blood of the Lamb, robed in white, the survivors of the earth. Let us remember that each of us is accountable to God.

### 4th week: Accountability

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday ushers us into the Solemnity of Christ the King. As renewed Catholics, it is our fervent hope and desire to be eternally with our Lord in heaven, sharing His kingdom. But His kingdom is entirely the opposite of the pomp and glory we normally associate with earthly kingdoms. For God’s kingdom is not about wealth, power, authority, prestige, flamboyance, or self-glorification, but a kingdom of humble service and obedience to the voice of the Father. It is about love, God’s great love for us His children, and our response to the love He lavishes upon us. We are called to witness to that love through embracing our own cross, which is the seat of His kingdom, the throne of His grace. All blessings flow from the cross of Jesus, and as we learn to embrace it, His kingship reigns in our lives.

The road map to heaven therefore is a process which we all have to undergo, a way of sacrifice and giving, a sharing of one’s life, in testimony to the truth of God’s kingdom and our promised inheritance. It is The Father’s love towards His children, moving in action in our lives, perfected by the grace of God, as we abide in Him. As we do, our reward will be great. We too, will inherit and experience eternally, true happiness in the kingdom of God, where true peace and justice reign.

### Pope's prayer intentions for November 2009

The Holy Father's general intention is: "That all the men and women in the world, especially those who have responsibilities in the field of politics and economics, may never fail in their commitment to safeguard creation.

The Pope's missionary intention is: "That believers in the different religions, through the testimony of their lives and fraternal dialogue, may clearly demonstrate that the name of God is a bearer of peace.

## Bukás Loób sa Diyós Covenant Community

### WORD, THEMES & PROMISES

#### FOR NOVEMBER 2009

#### READINGS

- ❖ November 1 Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; Ps 24:1-6; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12
- ❖ November 8 1 Kgs 17:10-16; Ps 146:7-10; Heb9:24-28; Mk 12:38-44
- ❖ November 15 Dn 12:1-3; Ps 16:5, 8-11; Heb 10:11-14, 18; Mk 13:34-32
- ❖ November 22 Dn 7:13-14; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Rv 1:5-8; Jn 18:33b-37

**WORD** The Kingdom of heaven is for those who have the righteousness of Christ.

**ORDER** “See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.” (John 3:1)

#### PROPHECIES:

- ❖ Love Me with all your heart, mind and strength to inherit My promised Kingdom.
- ❖ Love your neighbor unconditionally as your way of experiencing your love for Me.

#### DIRECTIONS:

- ❖ Testify to the truth – Jesus is Lord and King of our lives; live out the Beatitudes.
- ❖ Reach out to our community members who are lukewarm in faith and share your love with others especially the less fortunate.

#### THEMES AND PROMISES

Week#1 (Solemnity of All Saints)

[Perseverance]

**Theme:** We have the righteousness of Christ when we endure persecution for his sake.

**Promise:** “He shall receive a blessing from the Lord, a reward from God his savior.”  
(Ps 24: 5)

(Word, Themes and Promises continued on page 4)

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**Week#2 (32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time) [Dispossession]**

**Theme:** We have the righteousness of Christ when we give unselfishly, trusting in God's provision.

**Promise:** "For the Lord says, 'The jar of flour shall not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry'...." (1Kgs 17:13b)

**Week #3 (33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time) [Accountability]**

**Theme:** We have the righteousness of Christ when we are ready for His coming.

**Promise:** "Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices, my body, too, abides in confidence; because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will you suffer your faithful to undergo corruption." (Ps 16:9-10)

**Week #4 (Solemnity of Christ the King) [Witnessing]**

**Theme:** We have the righteousness of Christ when we testify to the truth of His Kingship.

**Promise:** "Your decrees are worthy of trust indeed; holiness befits your house." (Ps 93:5)

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**Reflection for November 2009**

**Word:** The Kingdom of heaven is for those who have the righteousness of Christ.

**Order:** "See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God." (John 3:1)

**Reflection:**

The Community Word for the month of November speaks of the righteousness of Christ as the key to entering the kingdom of heaven. The readings of the four Sundays point us to a stairway to heaven, a roadmap we can follow to be deserving of admission into this kingdom. And well it should, as the first two days of this month have been especially set aside as a time to remember those who have been called to that kingdom; November 1st, being All Saints Day, and November 2nd, being All Souls Day. And, to mark the end of the liturgical year, the last Sunday of the month celebrates the Feast of Christ the King.

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The Catholic Church always reminds us to pray for both the living and the dead. And November is always the time to call to mind and lift up in prayer our departed loved ones, those who have gone before us. We especially pray that they be cleansed of any lingering earthly defilement and be restored to their eternal heritage in Christ Jesus, as promised by God's word

**1<sup>st</sup> week: Perseverance**

The Solemnity of All Saints on the first Sunday of the month speaks of our life as a journey undertaken, not in self-serving isolation, but in the company of fellow-sojourners. God intends for us to live the 'be' attitudes Christ expounds in his Sermon on the Mount, and for us to stop along the way to help the weak, the lost, the least, the lame, the poor and the needy. His first beatitude, "happy are the poor" refers not necessarily to material poverty, but to poverty of spirit – the readiness to embrace a lifestyle of humility and charity towards others. God does not intend for us to be materially poor, if being so hinders living our lives to the full. Man fully alive is God's greatest glory.

The Beatitudes tell us how to live our lives as a sure-fire way to become saints. But Sainthood is not ours by right; it is not an automatic heritage, but a privilege we can aspire to by the grace of God, as scripture tells us "Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne and from the lamb," (Rev7: 14). Only Jesus, by His blood, can make us clean. As we come to believe in Him, repent of our sins and embrace His truth in our lives, we receive a blessing from our Lord, a great reward that awaits those who persist. "Who can ascend the hill of the Lord, who may stand on His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart; Such is the race that seeks the face of the God of Jacob," (Ps23:3-5). . We are His children, and we are called to God's own family. It is our hope to one day be joined with Him, but for this hope to become reality, we need to be pure, as God is pure. The road map is in the Beatitudes, lived with perseverance and constancy.

**2<sup>nd</sup> week: Dispossession**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, Jesus leads us to a higher realm and deeper understanding of what it is to be a saint. Just as He offered His life to ransom us from our sins through His sacrifice on the cross, we too are called to share His suffering, not necessarily through physical death, but through willingness to die to self, a dispossession of detachment to self and material things, for the good of others. Our love for the Lord should be demonstrated in our love for others, specially the less fortunate among us, the insignificant, and the weak. As we give part of ourselves, including our tithes and love offerings, we honor and give glory to God. Jesus who sees the thoughts and motivations of our hearts reminds us to be pure in our intentions, that He may ultimately bless us. To do as the Scribes and Pharisees - the hypocrites - do will earn us condemnation.

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