

BLD SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOR MARCH 2010			
Day	Time	Activity	Venue
5 Fri	8:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Eucharistic Celebration	OLA Church
6 Sat	TBA	Introduction to the Word/Basics of Prayer (ME#31)	Reunion Venue
6 Sat	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Service Ministry Recollection (Service Ministry Members)	Hall
10 Wed	7:45 pm - 10:45 pm	Mission Assembly	Hall
12 Fri	8:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Invocation Mass	OLA Church
13 Sat/ 14 Sun		Toronto YLSS #11	Cardinal Leger Catholic School
17 Wed	8:00 pm - 11:00 pm	DLC Meeting	Hall
19 Fri	8:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Corporate Praise & Worship	OLA Church
20 Sat	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Basic Commitment (LSS #22/23)	Hall
21 Sun	4:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Dinner for Out of the Cold	St. Matthews
23 Tues	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Mission Meal Service	Good Shepherd
26 Fri	8:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Community Lenten Recollection (In lieu of Seven Last Words)	OLA Church
27 Sat	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	New Creation Realities/Growth in Prayer (LSS #23/24)	Hall
27 Sat	2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Vigil Room Workshop (Introduction to Intercession) (SPE#8)	Chapel

God of all compassion, Father of all goodness, heal the wounds our sins and selfishness bring upon us. You bid us to turn to fasting, prayer and sharing with our brothers and sisters. We acknowledge our sinfulness, our guilt is ever before us: When our weakness causes discouragement, let your compassion fill us with hope and lead us through a lent of repentance to the beauty of Easter joy. (Creighton University Daily Reflection)

Toronto Teaching Schedule

For a complete and up-to-date Teaching Schedule, visit: www.bldtoronto.com



www.bldworld.org

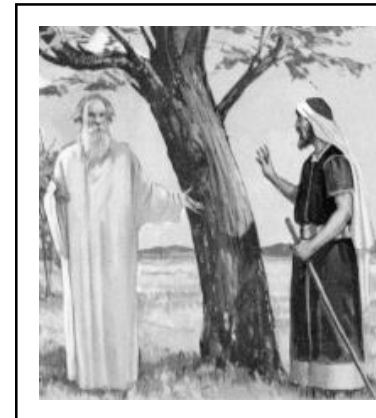


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March 5, 2010

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

Third Sunday of Lent



REFLECTION:

In the readings of the 3rd Sunday of Lent, we find that God first revealed Himself to Moses in the burning bush. It is interesting to note how God called Moses' attention to draw him closer to Himself and to hear His voice. It was God's call to Moses to liberate His people, the Hebrews, from slavery.

Like Moses, we too are called by God each in a special way known only to God. But the purpose of our calling is one and the same - to proclaim the Good News of salvation to all people from all walks of life. It is a message of freedom that can only be transmitted by one who believes in this gospel truth. It is a call that demands a continuing response to conversion. True conversion demands repentance from our sins, as well as believing in, living and sharing the Gospel which can only be achieved when we clothe ourselves in the holiness of Jesus. We all need to work on our holiness, accept our nothingness before Christ, recognize our weaknesses, admit that we have

THEME:

Christ's call for repentance exhorts us not to fall back into sin.

WORD:

Ex 3:1-8a,13-15; Ps 103:1-4,6-8,11; 1Cor 10:1-6,10-12; Lk 13:1-9

ORDER:

- Watch out that you do not fall.

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sinned and are in need of a savior greater and stronger than ourselves. It requires humility of heart.

In Lk 13:3, Jesus Himself is telling us "...I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish..." It is such a simple instruction; yet, a powerful command from Jesus Himself. We have to turn away from our sinful lives and do good. Repentance is an active word. It is living, therefore we have to practice this daily so that we may continue to grow spiritually and live in Christ.

Christ's call for repentance exhorts us not to fall back into sin. Christ, being an all-knowing and compassionate God, knew beforehand that the temptations we face in this world are many and sometimes insurmountable, frequently catching us unaware and defenseless. Flawed human beings that we are, we are prone to succumb to the quick fixes and the pleasures of this world. But the journey to freedom is long and toilsome, like the journey of the Israelites out of the desert. Along the way, they grumbled and succumbed to sin almost exhausting the patience of God. Their lives with Moses in the desert was written down as a warning to us Christians. As St. Paul urges us in the second reading, "Therefore, whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall." (1Cor 10:12)

The parable of the barren fig tree illustrates even more strongly the importance of heeding the call for repentance and steadfastness in pursuing holiness in Christ. This parable demonstrates that it is not enough that we be converted and stop doing the wrong things we used to do. Our lives should be living witnesses to the transforming power of God. Conversion does not stop with us but should continue to reveal and proclaim the love of the Father, through Jesus, in the way we relate to others and live our daily lives. A disciple of Christ is essentially a productive fig-tree. If a Christian fails to accomplish good works, he jeopardizes his call and his barrenness becomes a counter-witness to those around him. Many times, God puts us in situations or events that call us to exercise our giftedness or invite us to do good works.

"Jesus went about doing good." (Acts 10:38). Through faithful service, commitment and "going about doing good" thereby producing good fruits, we will not be cut down like the barren fig tree in the gospel. Jesus will continue to lavish His love and care for us. If by chance we find ourselves stunted in our spiritual growth, we only have to read the Gospel – the blueprint to follow to enable us to turn from barrenness to fruitfulness. It also tells of the loving mercies of the Lord toward His people and it gives us continually hope and a chance to bear good fruit. What we ought to remember is the time element for we know not when the Vinedresser will come. Let us continue to hope in the Lord Jesus that He will change our lot and that His grace will find for us the courage and strength to renew our lives and be the bearers of the Good News of salvation to others. God's promise for us in Ps 103:4 says: "He redeems your life from destruction; he crowns you with kindness and compassion." With that, we can be assured that we are not alone in this journey. Jesus is walking with us, holding us by His right hand. The reason for that is that we're all sinners. All of us have fallen short of the glory of God.

YOUTH



KORNER

MINISTRY



2010 Youth Life in the Spirit Seminar #11

One-on-one shepherding session tonight for those who missed it last Friday.
This may be done in the Mark 10 room or in the crying room.

Mar. 12 Invocation Mass @ 8:00 p.m. in OLA

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

CONFESSION is a **must** for all participants going to the venue.
Peanut or any peanut product is **strictly prohibited** in the venue.

Mar. 13-14 YLSS 11 Proper (Cardinal Leger Catholic School, Scarborough)

Mar 19 Post Shepherding – Growth & Transformation

*Direction to the venue is available for pick up at the Youth Ministry table in the basement.
Please continue to pray for all YLSS #11 participants.*

From the Solo Parents Ministry

SOLO PARENTS ENCOUNTER #9



Date: April 9 – 11, 2010

Location: Mount Mary Immaculate Retreat Centre
Application forms are available at the OLA Basement Hall.

From the Singles Ministry

Are you or anyone you know "Single and looking...for Jesus"?
Come and join our Singles Encounter Weekend #13 which will be held on
May 14-16, 2010 at Mt. Mary Immaculate Retreat Centre.

Application forms are available before and after the worship in the basement hall.
For more information, please speak to any member of the Sponsoring Class
or the Singles Ministry.

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As we enter the third week, the 5th Sunday of Lent, with the theme – **Christ’s call for repentance exhorts us not to condemn others**, God reveals to us another aspect of His person, His great compassion and readiness to forgive. We, who have gone through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, have experienced the greatness of God’s love, His great compassion and mercy. The readings of this Sunday tell us to look ahead, to set our hearts on the prize of God’s upward calling, finish our race here on earth, forget the events of the past, and to look forward to something new, a life in Jesus, as St. Paul, exhorts us *“to put all things in the past behind and consider them as rubbish that we may gain Christ and be found in Him”*.

As we come to be aware of our own sinfulness and how much God loves us, His Son Jesus died on the cross to give us life, *we cannot and have no right to condemn anyone who may have wronged us*. No matter how painful and deep the wound, God wants us to forgive and share in the suffering and pain of Jesus. It is only when we are able to do so, to die to our own selves and gain Christ, that we ourselves are forgiven. It is only when we learn to forgive from the heart, that we experience victory and freedom that could only come from Christ Jesus. We experience an inner peace. And as we do, we can be more prepared to minister to others. As Jesus said to the woman in the gospel, *“go and sin no more”*.

Our theme of fourth week, Palm Sunday – **Christ’s call for repentance exhorts us to carry our cross daily**, exhorts us to carry our crosses daily, with endurance that can only be found in Christ, as we follow Him in His own passion and death. We all have our own passion and death, our own crosses to bear. Jesus’ passion and death show us how to love, His own kind of loving, that demands dying to one’s self, one’s ego, one’s pride, one’s comfort or convenience in order to give life to others. Jesus became man, though He was God, and lived among the poorest of the poor. Jesus is telling us in this Sunday’s readings to be humble and pure of heart, not to seek the highest place, but to serve with love and humility, and to courageously follow His way of loving, which may even require us to give up our own life for the glory of the Father.

*You who have received so much love, share it with others.
Love others the way that God has loved you, with tenderness*
(Quote from Mother Teresa)

Pope's Prayer Intentions for March 2010

The Holy Father's general intention is: "That the world economy may be managed according to the principles of justice and equity, taking account of the real needs of peoples, especially the poorest."

The Pope's missionary intention is: "That the churches in Africa may be signs and instruments of reconciliation and justice in every part of that continent."

The parable of the fig tree, as St. Luke tells us, starts off with a man who comes upon a fig tree that is not bearing any fruit. He is actually been looking for fruit on the tree for three years but nothing has ever grown. The three years bear resemblance to the three years ministry of Jesus and therefore makes us think that the man in the story is Jesus. So if the story ended with the man telling the gardener to cut it down, and the gardener listened, then the story would not fit perfectly with the teaching of our Lord.

Of course we know that the story did not end that way. The gardener asked the man to give the tree just one more year. He promised to care for it, till it and fertilize it. If it still would not bear fruit by then, then he would cut it down. But just give it one more chance.

We are all part of this story of second chances. Jesus isn’t the owner of the vineyard; Jesus is the gardener. He’s the one standing up for us, pleading with the Father, asking for just one more year for us. After many years and we still have not borne any fruit, He’ll ask for us another year, and another after that. He will continue to request for us more chances hoping that someday we will bear fruit. Let us ask Jesus to save and change us. If we are to be judged according to God’s infinite love, then it is never too late and there is always a second chance waiting for us, if only we will ask for it and repent.

DIRECTION:

- Repent and bear fruit.

GOD’S PROMISE:

“He redeems your life from destruction; He crowns you with kindness and compassion.” (Ps. 103:4)

On Forgiveness

John D. Rockefeller built the great Standard Oil Empire. Not surprisingly, Rockefeller was a man who demanded high performance from his executives. One day, one of those executives made a two million dollar mistake. Word of the man’s enormous error quickly spread and all were scared to meet the boss. One man didn’t have any choice, however, since he had an appointment with the boss. So he straightened his shoulders and walked into Rockefeller’s office. As he approached Rockefeller’s desk, he looked up from the piece of paper on which he was writing. “I guess you’ve heard about the two million dollar mistake our friend made,” he said abruptly. “Yes,” the executive said, expecting Rockefeller to explode. “Well, I’ve been sitting here listing all of our friend’s good qualities, and I’ve discovered that in the past he has made us many more times the amount he lost for us today by his one mistake. His good points far outweigh this one human error. So I think we ought to forgive him, don’t you?” *(Fr Eugene Lobo SJ, Rome)*

Bukas Loob sa Diyos Covenant Community
WORD, THEMES & PROMISES
FOR MARCH 2010

READINGS:

- **March 7** Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; Ps 103:1-4,6-8,11; 1Cor 10:1-6,10-12; Lk 13:1-9
- **March 14** Jos 5:9a,10-12; Ps 34:2-7; 2Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3,11-32
- **March 21** Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-6; Phi 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11
- **March 28** Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9,17-20,23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14-23:56

WORD:

Holiness in Christ, our Spiritual Rock, calls for repentance.

ORDER:

“...I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish...” (Lk 13:5)

PROPHECIES:

- Intensify your prayer life; pray more, for the world is sinking into the mire of sinfulness.
- Repent and turn away from sin and you will be saved.

DIRECTIONS:

- Have a regular conversion of heart by attending daily masses, reconciliation with God through the sacraments, regular visitation to the Blessed Sacrament, reading, studying and living God’s Word.

THEMES AND PROMISES

Week#1 (3rd Sunday of Lent)

[Steadfastness]

Theme: Christ’s call for repentance exhorts us not to fall back into sin.

Promise: *“He redeems your life from destruction; he crowns you with kindness and compassion.”*
(Ps 103:4)

(Continued from page 4)

Week#2 (4th Sunday of Lent)

[Commitment to Reconciliation]

Theme: Christ’s call for repentance exhorts us to be reconciled with God and one another.

Promise: *“When the poor one called out, the Lord heard, and from all his distress he saved him.”* (Ps 34:7)

Week #3 (5th Sunday of Lent)

[Compassion, Readiness to forgive]

Theme: Christ’s call for repentance exhorts us not to condemn others.

Promise: *“Neither do I condemn you.”* (Jn 8:11)

Week #4 (Palm Sunday)

[Spiritual Endurance]

Theme: Christ’s call for repentance exhorts us to carry our cross daily.

Promise: *“The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; ...I shall not be put to shame.”* (Is 50:7)

Reflection for March 2010

In the second week, the 4th Sunday of Lent, our theme – **Christ’s call for repentance exhorts us to be reconciled with God and one another**, brings us to the journey of reconciliation with God and with one another. Here, the people of God finally enter the Promised Land. When they cried out to Him for help, God showed His big, loving heart to by forgiving their disobedience. Similarly, in the parable of the prodigal son, God showed the vastness of the Father’s love to anyone who is lost in the mire of self. No matter how great our sin, God our Father welcomes us back into His loving arms, if we only repent and humbly seek His forgiveness. God indeed promised us that he will bring us out of darkness, the darkness of our hearts, where we placed ourselves in the first place because of our choices in life. When he brought us out from the pit, he also wanted us to learn from our past mistakes such that, as we continue to travel through the desert of our life, we are assured that he is always beside us, nurturing us, guiding us and loving us.

By God’s very nature, he shows us how committed he is to us, as long as we want to be reconciled with Him and with one another. Like the father in the parable, are we really sincere in our commitment to reconcile with the members of our family and community? Is our reconciling with anyone premised on love, or on our own self-serving interest?

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