

WSC REFLECTION GUIDE

Readings: Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 97:1-3, 7-10 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 John 2:1-11	2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time January, 17, 2010
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Word:	The revelation of God's love is glorified in the Sonship of Jesus.
Theme:	The Sonship of Jesus is manifested upon those who nurture and exercise their spiritual gifts. [Fruitfulness]
Promise:	<i>"You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the Lord, a royal diadem held by your God."</i> (Is 62:3)

Reflection:

What do you personally consider to be the most valuable spiritual gift you have received from the Lord? In our case, it would have to be the gift of healing. We don't recall ever turning down an opportunity to serve as Healing Ministers of the BLD Manila District. With expectant faith, we feel a sense of excitement at the way the Holy Spirit chooses to manifest Himself through us each time. On our own, we are nothing, but by God's power we are transformed into instruments of healing during community worship on the last Wednesdays of the month. On these occasions, we never fail to be amazed at how God ministers to His people through the community's Healing Ministry. We are awed at how He can use us, to restore health among His people through our simple prayers spoken from the heart.

The Lord bestows many spiritual gifts upon us during our Baptism in the Spirit; the gift of healing is just one of them. God's spiritual gifts are given freely to whomsoever He chooses. They are not something we can earn or deserve on our own, and neither are they given in proportion to our holiness. They are gifts of grace, referred to as "charismatic gifts," i.e. freely given by a gracious God. Spiritual gifts are not necessarily an indication person's sanctity or merit, and are not meant to further one's personal status, power, or popularity.

Our theme for this week exhorts us to bear fruit by exercising and nurturing our spiritual gifts to help and serve others within the body of Christ. As we know, there are a variety of gifts produced by the same spirit, be it the utterance of wisdom, the message of knowledge, faith, the gift of healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, discernment of spirits, speaking and interpretation of tongues. As we run through our personal inventory of spiritual gifts, we realize that more than being a possession, they are actually channels through which the Holy Spirit ministers to His church. Let's reflect upon what have we done with the gifts that have been lavished upon us.

Indeed, God has graciously equipped each member of BLD, though undeservedly, with the ability to minister to one another and to others within the body of Christ. Through these gifts, the Spirit of God is manifested and our community is kept alive. Spiritual gifts are less a privilege than responsibilities. They are a community lifeline, enabling members to experience the joy of being actively involved in ministry and in seeing God working through them.

It is no wonder that spiritual gifts are given great significance in many biblical passages, not only in today's readings, but also in 1 Corinthians chapters 12-14; Ephesians chapter 4; Romans chapter 12; and 1 Peter chapter 4. Their prominence in Scripture highlights the importance given them by the Lord and is not to be taken lightly. As good stewards we are held accountable for the proper use of whatever gifts we have received in the service of other believers. No one gift is less important than others in the eyes of the Lord when we serve as His instruments. We all belong to the body of Christ and every part of the body is essential to its well-being. For when one member fails to do his part, the whole body suffers. As such, for every ministry, those especially gifted in that area should be involved to allow the gifts received to be properly developed and nurtured.

This brings us to the matter of diversity among the various gifts. It's astonishing how in a small Word Sharing Circle consisting of only 6 to 8 members, each one may be equipped with a unique gift. One may have the gift of teaching, another, the gift of administration, and still another gift of healing, etc. Paradoxically, this diversity creates not just unity, but mutual dependence for the building up of the community of Christ. Such is the beauty of the tapestry being woven by the Lord to bring about and promote inter-dependence among members of the Bukas Loob sa Diyos Covenant Community, leaving no room for self-centeredness, excessive individualism, jealousy, contentiousness, or divisive rivalries that could shatter the peace of the community.

As we go on using our spiritual gifts day after day, the Sonship of Jesus is manifested in us, and we shall see the grace of God flowing to all the members of our global community with joy, peace and love. With humility, we acknowledge our achievements, and ascribe all the glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, now and forever to Him, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Prayer:

Oh Lord, we thank You for all the spiritual gifts You have bestowed upon us, unworthy servants that we are. Give us the wisdom to discern and recognize these gifts and grant us the grace to use them as You would have us do not for our own benefit or self-glorification, but always for the benefit and the good of our brothers and sisters in Christ. And in everything we do, grant us the humility to acknowledge Your hand at work in our lives, that we may continue to grow in the knowledge, service, and love of You. In Jesus mighty name. Amen.

Suggested Personal Reflection Guide:

1. What do you consider to be the most valuable spiritual gift you received from the Lord, and why?
2. What are the other spiritual gifts that you have received? How can you use them even more effectively to serve our fellow Christians?

Next Week's Daily Mass Reading Guide:

January 18, 2010 (Mon):	1 Sm 15:16-23; Ps 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23; Mk 2:18-22
January 19, 2010 (Tue):	1 Sm 16:1-13; Ps 89:20-22, 27-28; Mk 2:23-28
January 20, 2010 (Wed):	1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Ps 144:1, 2, 9-10; Mk 3:1-6
January 21, 2010 (Thur):	1 Sm 18:6-9, 19:1-7; Ps 56:2-3, 9-13; Mk 3:7-12
January 22, 2010 (Fri):	1 Sm 24:3-21; Ps 57:2-4, 6, 11; Mk 3:13-19
January 23, 2010 (Sat):	2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Ps 80:2-3, 5-7; Mk 3:20-21

“Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!”