

BLD SCHEDULE				
Month of January 2010				
Day	Start	End	Activity	Venue
08 Fri	8:00 PM	11:00PM	Family Day Mass	OLA Church
09 Sat	10:00AM	3:00 PM	ME #31 Grand Reunion	OLA Church
10 Sun	3:30 PM	4:30 PM	Lunch boxes for Out of the Cold	St Matthews
13 Wed	7:45 PM	10:45PM	Mission Assembly	OLA Church
15 Fri	8:00 PM	11:00PM	Corporate Praise and Worship	OLA Church
16 Sat	9:00 AM		DLC Meeting	TBD
17 Sun	4:30 PM	7:00 PM	Dinner for Out of the Cold	St. Matthews
20 Wed	7:30 PM		Disciples Meeting	OLA Church
22 Fri	8:00 PM	11:00PM	Corporate Praise and Worship	OLA Church
23 Sat	9:00 AM	4:00 PM	Shepherd's Recollection	OLA Basement Hall
25 Mon			Intercessory Meeting - including Advanced Intercession Part I	OLA Basement Hall
26 Tue	2:00 PM	4:00 PM	Mission Meal Service	Good Shepherd Centre
29 Fri	8:00 PM	11:00PM	Corporate Praise and Worship	OLA Church

ME #31 Grand Reunion

The Marriage Encounter Class #31 humbly invites you to our Grand Reunion.

When: Saturday, January 9, 2010 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Where: Basement Hall, Our Lady of Assumption Church

Holy Mass followed by Lunch in the basement and a thanksgiving program till 3:00 pm.

We hope and pray that those who offered their time, talent and treasures (from the Service, Intercessory & Praise Ministries and many others) to make the ME #31 weekend a blessed experience will be able to join us. Allow us to show you all, our gratitude for the blessings we received on that spirit-filled and joyous weekend.



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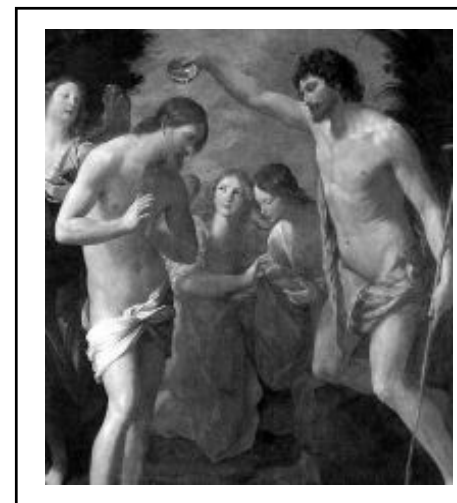


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January 8, 2010

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

Counsel for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord



ORDER:

- ❖ "Live a life that is self-controlled, upright and godly." (Titus 2: 12)
- ❖ "Lift up your voice and do not fear." (Isaiah 40:9)

REFLECTION:

Luke's account on the Baptism of our Lord calls us to reflect on the message of love, repentance, forgiveness and transformation that he purposed Jesus to be baptized in order that Jesus might receive the power to save the world and do God's will. It is also through the sacrament of baptism that God confers upon his people the title of sons and daughters of God and his unconditional and free gift – the remission for our sins. For it is written in the Letter to Titus verse 4-5, "...when the goodness and loving kindness of God, our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but accord-

(Reflection Continued on page 2)

THEME:

The sonship of Jesus is manifested upon those who fear the Lord and act uprightly.

WORD:

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Psalm 104; Titus 2:11-14 ,3:4-7; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

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ing to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.”

Although the sacrament of baptism frees the baptized from the bondage of sin, God expects us to live lives worthy of our calling as children of God. Knowing that we do not have the power to resist the devil’s temptations, God enables us to fight the enemy and live holy lives through the help of his Holy Spirit. His Holy Spirit will give us the power and understanding to do God’s will and help us “renounce impiety, and worldly passions and live lives that are self-controlled, upright and godly.” (Titus 2:12) All we have to do is respond in faith and obey. As God’s children, there is nothing to fear.

Just like John the Baptist, we can “renew the face of the earth” through the empowerment of God’s Holy Spirit. As Jesus’ voice in the wilderness, we can straighten the crooked pathways of others and remove obstacles that hinder them from fulfilling their baptismal promises. We can help bring down the mountains and hills, great trails and difficulties that bring so much misery in the lives of others as we help them listen to the voice of hope, the call to faith, and the songs of deliverance only found in the Word of God. We can help them see a loving and merciful God, who will not let his flock go hungry, who will not let his erring lambs go astray, and who will bring them home, safe and secure forever. As we share in God’s mission to save the world, God will say, “thou art my beloved son and daughter, with you I am well pleased”.

DIRECTION:

- ❖ May we who share His humanity come to share his divinity. Through our baptism in water and in spirit, we did not only receive healing and forgiveness. God gave us the power to become a holy people, to renew and recreate the world with the same love, healing and forgiveness. Let us ask God the grace to live up to our baptismal promises.
- ❖ As disciples of Christ, we need to be faithful to our calling as his voice in the wilderness, as his messengers, his ministers, his shepherds, and his evangelizers. Let not the flames of God’s Holy Spirit received during our Baptism in the Spirit flicker or be extinguished but burn brighter in our lives.

GOD’S PROMISE:

“See, the Lord God comes with might and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.” (Isaiah 40:10-11)

**Bukás Loób sa Diyós Covenant Community
Annual Financial Report - Toronto District
For the year ended December 31, 2009**

	2009 \$ Actual
<u>RECEIPTS:</u>	
Tithes - Receiptable	106,173
Love offerings - non receiptable	9,102
Program fees	47,002
Fundraising	34,933
Donations - UWGT, BMO Foundation	985
Interest income	<u>7</u>
	<u>198,202</u>
<u>DISBURSEMENTS:</u>	
Program/Encounter expenses	62,131
Occupancy expenses	30,000
Ministry expenses	27,223
Tithes-Archdiocese of Toronto	2,654
Stipend-BLD Spiritual director	2,654
Consulting fees/workshop materials	5,309
Honorarium	1,800
Community events	10,122
Supplies, Equipments, repair	18,378
BLD general expenses	15,933
Fundraising expenses	13,740
Donations	4,550
Mission ministry	<u>8,753</u>
	<u>203,247</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS	(5,045)
Extra ordinary-OLA support (sound system)	7,250
BEGINNING CASH BALANCE	<u>34,707</u>
ENDING CASH BALANCE	<u>22,412</u>

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The shepherds teach us this priority. From them we should learn not to be crushed by all the pressing matters in our daily lives. From them we should learn the inner freedom to put other tasks in second place, however important they may be, so as to make our way towards God, to allow Him into our lives and into our time. Time given to God and, in His name, to our neighbour is never time lost".

"Some commentators point out that the shepherds, the simple souls, were the first to come to Jesus in the manger and to encounter the Redeemer of the world. The wise men from the East, representing those with social standing and fame, arrived much later. ... They had to undertake a long and arduous journey in order to arrive in Bethlehem . They needed guidance and direction.

"Today too there are simple and lowly souls who live very close to the Lord. ... But most of us in the world today live far from Jesus Christ, the incarnate God who came to dwell amongst us. We live our lives by philosophies, amid worldly affairs and occupations that totally absorb us and are a great distance from the manger. In all kinds of ways, God has to prod us and reach out to us again and again, so that we can manage to escape from the muddle of our thoughts and activities and discover the way that leads to Him.

"But a path exists for all of us. The Lord provides everyone with tailor-made signals. Left to ourselves we could not reach Him. The path is too much for our strength. But God has come down. He comes towards us. He has travelled the longer part of the journey. Now He invites us: come and see how much I love you. ... Let us journey towards God in all sorts of ways: along our interior path towards Him, but also along very concrete paths - the liturgy of the Church, the service of our neighbour, in whom Christ awaits us.

"Let us once again listen directly to the Gospel. The shepherds tell one another the reason why they are setting off. ... Literally the Greek text says: 'Let us see this Word that has occurred there'. Yes indeed, such is the radical newness of this night: the Word can be seen. For it has become flesh. ... God's sign, the sign given to the shepherds and to us, is not an astonishing miracle. God's sign is His humility. God's sign is that He makes Himself small; He becomes a child; He lets us touch Him and He asks for our love.

"How we would prefer a different sign, an imposing, irresistible sign of God's power and greatness", said the Holy Father in conclusion. "But His sign summons us to faith and love, and thus it gives us hope: this is what God is like. He has power, He is Goodness itself. He invites us to become like Him. Yes indeed, we become like God if we allow ourselves to be shaped by this sign; if we ourselves learn humility and hence true greatness; if we renounce violence and use only the weapons of truth and love".

Youth LSS #11 Candidates

You are reminded to please attend one of the following orientation sessions:

Friday, Jan 8th (after the mass-Mark 10 room) or

Friday, Jan 15th (after the Youth Praise & Worship)



Bukás Loób sa Diyós Covenant Community

WORD, THEMES & PROMISES

FOR JANUARY, 2010

READINGS

Jan 10 Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 104; Ti 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Jan 17 Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10; 1Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-12

Jan 24 Neh 8:2-4a,5-6,8-10; Ps 19:8-10,15; 1Cor 12:12-30; Lk1:1-4;4:14-21

Jan 31 Jer 1:4-5,17-19; Ps 71:1-6,15,17; 1Cor 12:31-13:13; Lk 4:21-30

WORD God's love is glorified in the sonship of Jesus.

ORDER "Rise up in splendor...! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you" (Is 60:1)

PROPHECIES:

- ❖ Go and proclaim the Good News of Salvation to the ends of the earth.
- ❖ I will let my light shine upon you when you live a life of offering and sacrifice in My name.
- ❖ Turn away from your old sinful ways.

DIRECTIONS:

- ❖ Intensify our evangelization program.
- ❖ Do regular acts of mercy, reaching out to our brothers and sisters, especially those who do not know Him.
- ❖ Continue to progress in your relationship with Christ through daily mass, reading and meditating on His word, regular visit to the Blessed Sacrament.

THEMES AND PROMISES

Week#2 (The Lord's Baptism)

[Fear of the Lord]

Theme: The sonship of Jesus is manifested upon those who fear the Lord and act uprightly.

Promise: "See, the Lord God comes with might and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep." (Is 40:10-11)

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THEMES AND PROMISES

Week #3 (2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

[Fruitfulness]

Theme: The sonship of Jesus is manifested upon those who nurture and exercise their spiritual gifts.

Promise: *"You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the Lord, a royal diadem held by your God."* (Is 62:3)

Week #4 (3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

[Charity]

Theme: The sonship of Jesus is manifested upon those who bring glad tidings to the poor.

Promise: *"Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength."* (Neh 8:10)

Week #5 (4th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

[Selflessness]

Theme: The sonship of Jesus is manifested upon those who love unconditionally.

Promise: *"They will fight against you, but not prevail over you, for I am with you and will rescue You."* (Jer 1:19, NIV)

NEWS FLASH

BLD Mississauga and some East end members hosted the Dec. 19, 2009 Simbang Gabi at the Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Mississauga. They entertained and served dinner to about 400 guests and Parishioners.

The BLD "Choir" of 40 members in full Christmas outfit sang Filipino and English Carols to the delight and entertainment of the parishioners. The choir headed by Cherry Quiroz, sang impressively to win, to our delightful surprise, the 2nd cash prize of \$400. The money has now been sent and allotted 50/50 to two well deserving recipients: Fr. Vic De Jesus' San Jose Seminary in Manila. (Fr. Vic was a former Spiritual Director of BLD Toronto) and the Outreach Ministry of BLD Manila, specifically the inmates of the Correctional Institute for Women and the National Bilibid Prison.

Fr. Sol Paranas, parish priest of Sts. Peter & Paul, was so impressed with how well we presented ourselves that he expects us to be back next year.

Thanks to all who participated and helped in the planning, organizing, serving, singing and playing instruments and those who in one way or another contributed to the success of this activity.

AWAKE, LIKE THE SHEPHERDS, TO THE MESSAGE OF GOD

VATICAN CITY, 24 DEC 2009 (VIS) - The Pope tonight celebrated Midnight Mass in the Vatican Basilica for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord.

In the course of the Eucharistic celebration, following the reading of the Gospel, the Holy Father delivered his homily.

"The story of the shepherds is included in the Gospel for a reason", he said. "They show us the right way to respond to the message that we too have received. What is it that these first witnesses of God's incarnation have to tell us?"

"The first thing we are told about the shepherds is that they were on the watch - they could hear the message precisely because they were awake. We must be awake, so that we can hear the message. ... The principal difference between someone dreaming and someone awake is that the dreamer is in a world of his own. ... To wake up means to leave that private world of one's own and to enter the common reality, the truth that alone can unite all people. Conflict and lack of reconciliation in the world stem from the fact that we are locked into our own interests and opinions, into our own little private world. Selfishness, both individual and collective, makes us prisoners of our interests and our desires that stand against the truth and separate us from one another".

"To awake", the Pope explained, "means to develop a receptivity for God: for the silent promptings with which He chooses to guide us; for the many indications of His presence. ... The gift of a capacity to perceive God seems as if it is withheld from some. And indeed our way of thinking and acting, the mentality of today's world, the whole range of our experience is inclined to deaden our receptivity for God. ... And yet in every soul, the desire for God, the capacity to encounter Him, is present. ... Lord, open the eyes of our hearts, so that we may become vigilant and clear-sighted, in this way bringing You close to others as well!"

"Let us return to the Christmas Gospel. It tells us that after listening to the Angel's message, the shepherds said one to another: 'Let us go over to Bethlehem ', ... they went at once'. 'They made haste' is literally what the Greek text says. What had been announced to them was so important that they had to go immediately. In fact, what had been said to them was utterly out of the ordinary. It changed the world. ... They made haste; they went at once. In our daily life, it is not like that. For most people, the things of God are not given priority, they do not impose themselves on us directly.

"And so the great majority of us tend to postpone them. First we do what seems urgent here and now. In the list of priorities God is often more or less at the end. ... The Gospel tells us: God is the highest priority. If anything in our life deserves haste without delay, then, it is God's work alone.

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