

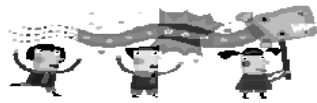
From the Life in the Spirit Apostolate

We will have an Invocation Mass tonight in preparation for the LSS Proper on Saturday and Sunday, June 26 and 27 at the Cardinal Leger Catholic School.

Post LSS Shepherding Sessions will resume at Our Lady of the Assumption Church on:

Friday, July 9, 2010 Topic: Growth

Friday, July 16, 2010 Topic: Transformation



**BLD 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
PARADE OF BANNERS**

REMINDER

The PASTORAL APOSTOLATE is scheduled to showcase their banners next Friday, July 2, 2010 @ 8:00 p.m. and will be followed immediately by Mass.



Sunday, August 29, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.
Nathan Philips Square & Armoury Street, Toronto



Walk to transform communities and change lives!

Please walk with us to give needy children an education and build homes for the poor.

Register now and make a difference!
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For more information, please contact:
Bernie/Belen Consul – Tel# 416-297-9420 Email: bernie9@sympatico.ca



Living Water



www.bldworld.org

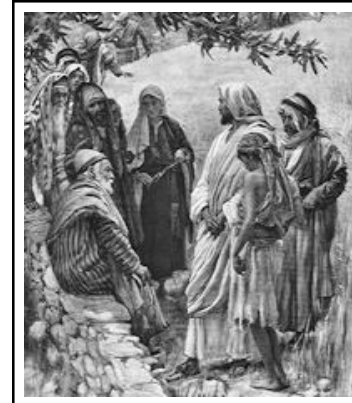


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June 25, 2010

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

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time



REFLECTION:

There are two main themes in this Sunday's readings on discipleship:

1. *the obedience of Elijah to the Lord and the subsequent obedience of Elisha to the call of Elijah (1Kgs 19:16, 19-21)*
2. *the demands of true discipleship (Lk 9:58-62).*

In the first theme, God spoke to the Prophet Elijah for him to anoint Elisha as a Prophet in Elijah's place. In complete obedience to God's will, Elisha accepted God's call and only asked for him to say goodbye to his father and mother. In the same way, God has called us to be His disciples and it is up to us to accept or reject His call. Just as Elijah had placed the mantle of authority over Elisha, our religious elders have placed the mantle of authority over us. As always, we have the choice to accept or reject this mantle of authority. In some cases, a higher calling may be placed upon us in which case we may have to leave our loved ones behind.

THEME:

We share life with Christ when we serve one another through love.

WORD:

1Kgs 19:16, 19-21; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; Gal 5:1, 13-18; Lk 9:51-62

ORDER:

- ❖ You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
- ❖ Follow me.

When we are called and the mantle of authority is placed on us, we have to:

- ❖ **Acknowledge the call of God in our lives.**
- ❖ **Continually listen to God's Word:** That we are the salt of the earth; to follow Christ; to be fishers of men; to teach all nations just as Jesus taught us and to let our lights shine on others.
- ❖ **Abandon ourselves completely in service to the Lord.** This not going to always be pleasant. In fact, it will mostly be an uphill struggle and at times full of conflicts and frustrations. Christian life is not a life that we are always "high" in the Spirit as if we just emerged from the LSS or a powerful prayer meeting.

In the second theme, we are guided by the passage from Lk 9:57-62.

1. It is tough to be a follower of Christ. Only a few will be able to take it.

Though we are called to preach the Gospel to all the nations, to follow Christ wherever He is going is not like walking in a rose garden.

Even "the Son of Man has nowhere to put his head". There will be no security.

There will be no retirement benefits here on earth. There will be no vacation days or mansions in neither Florida nor Muskoka for the laborers of Christ. The late Fr. Pete Sevilla, S.J. was known to have replaced his shoes with holes on the soles when he came to Toronto for the first few Marriage and Family Encounters. His former student, a priest of the Filipino Chaplaincy, brought him to a mall to buy a new pair of shoes. Typically, all the money donated to him personally always went to the support of indigent seminarians he was mentoring in Laguna.

The late great Blessed Mother Teresa is now known to have had some 40 years of spiritual "dryness". It is not only material poverty but at times spiritual poverty is part of discipleship.

That is why discipleship is for the few, the strong, the committed, like the TV ads for the U.S. Marines and just like them, the difficult we can do immediately, the impossible will take a little bit longer – with the grace of God.

2. The disciple of Christ has no worldly connections.

In many situations, we are called to detach ourselves from friends, relatives and even our own families to serve God. It does not mean that we abandon our children when they are hungry or in need of parental teaching or companionship. It means that we spiritually detach ourselves to let God have His way in us.

Will it be attending a prayer meeting or attending a party of our relative? One way to avoid this predicament is to announce to our relatives that, with the exception of medical emergencies, Friday evening is blocked off for the Lord. Your relative may not like you, but your relatives will not be there with you on Judgment day. Better still, bring your relative to the prayer meeting, then have fellowship after the meeting. In effect, Jesus says, "*Leave these connections behind*".

3. This brings us to the statement in the Gospel reading "not to look back".

Many in the community have left privileged occupations and positions in the Philippines. We are asked not to look back at our occupations and look forward to the service and occupations as disci-

ples of Christ and as members of the BLD community.

The most encouraging promise of Jesus for us who left brothers, sisters and occupations is our blessed reward, up to a hundredfold. When our time is up here on earth and our Lord makes His final review of our lives, will He ask how much money we have in RRSP, RESP or GIC? Will He ask how much we have accumulated to give to our children? Will Jesus ask what kinds of cars we drove – Infinity, Lexus, Mercedes, BMW, Land Rover? Or, will Jesus welcome us for we gave a **large** part of our lives to save a brother or a sister from their spiritual darkness through the encounter programs, teachings and retreats as well as service to the poor.

The real blessings for the disciples are those which LAST FOR ETERNITY. Disciples love God only through the people they serve.

DIRECTION:

Live by the Spirit.

GOD'S PROMISE:

"You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever." (Ps 16:11)

On Servanthood

The late Mother Teresa was an incredible leader who exemplified for me the untiring heart of a servant. In the classic book *The Love of Christ*, Mother Teresa speaks of her magnificent work in Calcutta. She reflects: "What we are doing is but a drop in the ocean. This may be only a drop, but the ocean would be less if it weren't there. What we do is something small, but we do it with big hearts. At death, we will not be judged by the amount of work we did, but by the amount of love we put into it. We do not strive for spectacular actions. What counts is the gift of yourself, the degree of love you put into each of your deeds". Do you want to be great? Pick up a broom and sweep the floor.

Here was a servant whom God used to touch a needy world. She was content to serve an "Audience of One." She didn't clean tables with a washcloth; she cleaned them with her heart. She didn't give speeches with eloquence; she gave them with her heart.

When you serve, serve with your heart. Whether you teach, sing, pass out bulletins, play an instrument, set up chairs or clean tables, always remember: It's not the size of the task but the size of the heart you put into the task that makes what you do something beautiful for God.

(Wayne Cordeiro - Doing Church as a Team)