

WSC REFLECTION GUIDE

Readings: Gn 18:1-10a
Ps 15:2-5
Col 1:24-28
Lk 10: 38-42

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 18, 2010

Word: **The Lord's power shall be upon His committed servants.**
Theme: **The Lord's committed servants find joy in prayer and service.**
[Prayerfulness and Service]
Promise: **"One who does these things shall never be disturbed."** (Ps 15:5)

Reflection:

Whenever you are asked by anyone what you do in a Catholic charismatic community like BLD, what comes to mind? How would you describe and communicate to others the activities that mark our community life? Typically, one might make a list of our regular activities and reply, 'attend corporate worship and join word sharing circles weekly, serve at outreaches periodically, shepherd lambs during LSS weekends, tithe and give love offering regularly, etc.' The list goes on.

So one may ask, are we living the life of Martha more than that of Mary? What did Jesus really mean when He said, "***There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part.***" Have we chosen the better part in BLD? This is a good question to ponder and reflect upon as we read today's gospel.

We have all received a special calling to be servants of the Lord. By God's grace we have been chosen to commit our lives to His service. The word for the month received by the ECSL is an affirmation of the empowerment that comes with being committed servants. So how are we to use the power bestowed upon us in order to obey God's will and not be "anxious and worried about many things" as Martha was?

Surely, Jesus did not mean for Martha to neglect her tasks, and instead spend her days devoted exclusively to prayer and a contemplative life. The word of God declares, "***For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;***" (Mat 25:36). In another verse He says, "***The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed.***" (Luke 4:18). He further said, "***If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth,***" (1 John 3:17-18). All these imply active, not passive involvement.

As followers of Christ, we are to obey God's word and undertake Martha-like activities in the service of our brothers and sisters as commanded in the sacred scripture. It therefore begs the question, what was Mary doing at the Lord's feet that made Him say she had "chosen the better part" and it will not be taken from her?

Clearly, it was the disposition of the servant's heart that concerned the Master. Mary's entire being was totally absorbed in Jesus. Everything else paled in comparison. This is the kind of

mind-set and dedication expected from each of us in BLD. We need to put Jesus at the center of our life that, even as we busy ourselves in our day-to-day life and community activities, He should remain the focus, the be-all and end-all of everything we do.

This spiritual outlook demands that we set aside our pride and self-serving attitude, and instead serve others with humility and from a genuine love of God. It requires that we not lose sight of Jesus in accomplishing the many tasks facing us in the course of life, or in serving the community. If all the members of BLD could be like Mary, doing the will of Jesus as a primary concern, BLD will be a selfless and faceless Community of committed servants, serving God with only one purpose, and the purest intentions of the heart.

Let our activities revolve around Jesus, as indeed they should. ***“Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life,”*** (Jn. 14:6). Without Him, there is no salvation. The best way for us to fix our eyes on Him is to fix our eyes on the Word of God so we may know God more intimately, and be spiritually enriched constantly. Only then can we find joy in prayer and service. Then we can claim God’s promise for the week, ***“One who does these things shall never be disturbed,”*** (Ps 15:5).

Prayer:

“Lord, when I find myself in the midst of a very busy schedule in my community life and lose sight of You in all that busyness, I pray that you take me in Your arms and hold me tight that I may calm down and find peace in my heart. Make me remember that You are the reason for all that I do. Give me the grace to serve others in the spirit of love, using all the gifts You so lavishly bestowed upon me. May all I do be done with humility and love. As I go about like Martha, serving You in others, let me also, like Mary, focus my attention upon you, that I may follow Your divine will with all my heart and with all my soul. All this I pray in the mighty name of Your son Jesus, Amen.

Suggested Personal Reflection Guide:

1. How do you plan to commit yourself to serving God this coming week with the talents and skills He has given you?
2. What can you do differently in your spiritual life to be more like Mary as you go about serving God?

Next Week’s Daily Mass Reading Guide:

July 19, 2010	Mi 6:1-4, 6-8; Ps 50:5-6, 8-9, 16-17, 21, 23; Mt 12:38-42
July 20, 2010	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-8; Mt 12:46-50
July 21, 2010	Jer 1:1, 4-10; Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15, 17; Mt 13:1-9
July 22, 2010	Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Ps 36:6-7, 8-9, 10-11; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
July 23, 2010	Jer 3:14-17; Jer 31:10, 11-12, 13; Mt 13:18-23
July 24, 2010	Jer 7:1-11; Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6, 8, 11; Mt 13:24-30

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