



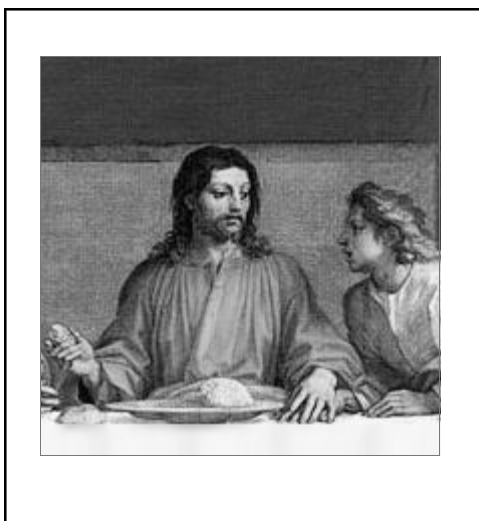
Living Water



April 25 2008

BUKAS-LOOB SA DIYOS • *OPEN IN SPIRIT TO GOD*
Toronto District

Counsel for The Sixth Sunday of Easter



with Jesus. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, they will come to know and appreciate the unity of the Son and the Father. *"On that day you will know that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you"* (Jn. 14:20).

Just as the first disciples were not left orphaned, we too are not orphaned. Through our baptism, we have received the Holy Spirit. And as it was for the people our first reading speaks of who received the Holy Spirit when Peter and John laid their hands on them (Acts 8: 15-17), so too for those of us in the Renewal, it was when hands were laid on us during our own baptism in the Holy Spirit at our LSS that we experienced more fully the presence of Jesus in our lives and the power of the Holy Spirit in us.

THEME:

God's Word sanctifies our hearts and leads us to holiness.

WORD:

Acts 8: 5-8; 14-17; Ps 66; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14 15-21

ORDER:

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments." (Jn 14:15).

REFLECTION:

As the day of Pentecost draws near, Jesus prepares His apostles for that time when He would leave them to go back to His rightful place at the right hand of the Father. He reassures them that even though He will leave them, He will not abandon them. Instead He promises to send them another Advocate, the Holy Spirit, through whom the apostles will continue to live in union

The condition that Jesus sets on having a living relationship with Him is loving obedience to Him by keeping His commandments. To those who walk in obedience to His Word, Jesus promised to reveal Himself. *"They who love my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father and I will love them and reveal myself to them."* (Jn. 14:21). Yes, it is very clear that one way to know the power of the Holy Spirit in our own lives is by obeying the Lord.

Our best model of obedience is Jesus Himself. He laid down His life to accomplish the Father's will. And throughout His life, Jesus showed obedience by subjecting Himself to the authority of other people. He allowed Himself to be born to a Jewish woman, being subject to the authority of Mary and Joseph. Although He had no sin, He submitted Himself to be baptized. As He came out of the water, the Holy Spirit overshadowed Him and the voice of God was heard saying *"This*

is my Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." (Matt 3:17) When we obey, we please the Father.

In community, obedience requires that we submit to each other in love. Our aim is unity. And there can be no unity if there is no submission to those in authority, whose authority comes from God. Community leaders are not to be envied for they are accountable to God Himself.

Obedience is merely the minimum. Love is what makes obedience possible. It motivates us to do more than the minimum. If we love, we cannot help but want to do more for others, because unconditional love is the nature of Jesus.

As Pentecost approaches, let us ask the Holy Spirit to give us a deeper knowledge of God's love and to make us channels of His love. As our helper and counselor, let us pray for His guidance to grow more in the fruit of the Spirit so we can truly become worthy sons and daughters of a loving God. May the Holy Spirit, living and working within us, help us in persevering in our faith and in obeying the commandments that Jesus taught.

DIRECTIONS:

Let the love of God remain in our hearts that His work done through us will always be fruitful; remain connected to Him; turn to Him in prayer and have joyful endurance, for we are accountable to Him.

PROMISE:

"I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always."
(Jn 14:16)



DANCERCISE

The BLD Charitable Foundation is sponsoring a Dance Exercise every Wednesday, starting April 30 from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the Our Lady of Assumption Rectory basement.

Fee will be \$5.00, which includes a bottle of water. All proceeds will go towards the projects of the Foundation. Space is limited so sign up early at the Foundation desk before and after tonight's Praise and Worship.



**AN INVITATION
FROM ME CLASS 27**

All BLD members, family and friends

Occasion: BLD Spring Dinner & Dance

When: May 31, 2008 (Saturday) at 6:00 pm

Where: 850 Humberwood Community Centre
Etobicoke, Ontario

Tickets are NOW ON SALE on a First-Come, First-Served basis, at the OLA Hall basement before and after the Praise & Worship. Buy your tickets now before they get sold out .



April 25 – Feast of St. Mark

SAINT MARK
**Evangelist, Patron of Notaries,
Egypt and Venice**

Mark, sometimes called John Mark, is the author of the second Gospel which is probably the oldest of the Gospels, and a companion of Saint Peter. He also accompanied Saint Paul and Saint Barnabas in Paul's first journey.

Tradition says it was written in Rome, requested by Romans to set down the teachings of St. Peter, the apostle. St. Mark was referred to as St. Peter's "interpreter". He accurately wrote down all that Peter remembered. Therefore, St. Mark's Gospel is a record of the life of Jesus as seen through the eyes of the Prince of the Apostles. St. Mark was also associated with St. Paul and his cousin, St. Barnabas. Mark and his mother, Mary, were highly esteemed in the early Church. His mother opened her house to Christians for their meetings.

St. Mark's evangelistic symbol is the lion.

*"Sins are like weeds in a garden;
keep them out or they will take over."*