

Bukas Loob sa Diyos Covenant Community

BLD COVENANT OF COMMUNION

THE POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

(Amended as of October 21, 2011)

SECTION 5 BLD COMMUNITY CULTURE

5.0 Introduction

The BLD Community Culture is a set of statements of community order which follows the patterns of a sound Christian community. It aims to define what BLD Community stands for and how BLD members are to be known, wherever they are. The ten (10) statements below describe the way of life that every member of the BLD Community should seek to follow. The principles of a true Catholic Christian are embodied in these culture statements which every BLD member should embrace and aspire for.

5.1 We are Roman Catholic.

We are a covenant community in communion with the Roman Catholic Church. We fully embrace its teaching, observe its liturgy, and submit to its ecclesial authority. We obey God's commandments. We seek to deepen our knowledge and understanding of our faith, that we may be able to live it faithfully and share it with others. We are active parishioners where we live. We witness to our Catholic faith in all circumstances, nourished by His Word and strengthened by His sacraments.

5.2 We are Christ-centered.

Jesus Christ is our communion with God. He is the foundation of our community (1 Cor 3:11), the Lord whom we worship and the Teacher whom we follow. He is our life, our peace and our joy. We proclaim His name, life, kingdom and mystery. We seek a full relationship with Jesus who is the condition for our existence and growth. Our communal relationships are anchored on the love of Jesus. We share His ministry to bring salvation and life to all, for the glory of God the Father. We believe that Jesus is the Son of man, born of the Virgin Mary, conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.

5.3 We are a Covenant Community.

We live our Baptismal Covenant in the concrete ways that we pledged to in our Community Covenant. The model of our relationships is the friendship of Jesus Christ (Jn 15:13-15). Although we have different roles in community – some are in positions of authority over others, no one is greater than others. Every member belongs and is vital. Every one is accorded with hospitality, respect and honor befitting God's children. We safeguard our communion by following Christ's example and teaching. And when in conflict, we practice His teaching on fraternal correction, forgiveness and reconciliation. Our words and actions are guided by the Gospel, hence the wellbeing of others. Wherever we are, all will know we are truly disciples of Jesus Christ by the love we bear for one another.

5.4 We are witnesses of our transformation in Christ.

We witness to the love and truth of Jesus Christ in our lives. We choose to follow Jesus Christ and renounce the world, its enticements and empty promises, (1Jn 2:15-17). We seek continual formation and spiritual direction to equip us for the discipleship. As leaders and members, we are servants of His flock and stewards of His ministry. We practice transparency and empower one another by the Grace of God. We give fully of ourselves and are accountable to the Lord. We pray for and serve one another. We live with humility, gentleness, patience, bearing one another through love. We preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace, (Eph 4:1-3).

5.5 We are evangelized and we are evangelizing families.

We believe in the sacrament of marriage in the Catholic Church as the foundation of the Christian family in building the Church. As a communion of families, we are faithful to the Christian values on which marriage and family are founded. We bring Christ to other families and help provide formation to grow in their communion and faith. We welcome and minister to the needs of all family members: young and old, single and married, widowed, divorced or separated, parents and children. We offer Catholic pathways to the young as they journey toward adulthood, marriage, single or family life, or religious vocation, helping them to discover the beauty of the vocation to love and the service of life.

5.6 We are global and local.

We are a community of districts residing in different dioceses in various parts of the world, yet we are one. We have diverse backgrounds, circumstances and citizenship, yet we are one. We are structured globally and locally, yet we pray, worship, share the Word, discern, act and move

as one community, in accord with our shared identity, vision, mission, covenant, statutes and policies. We respond to the challenges of our particular place, time and culture, through prayerful discernment, in consultation with our community leaders, and in accordance to our Catholic beliefs. In matters of community concerns, our leaders speak for us and have the good of the community at heart. Hence, we obey and respond to the universal or particular challenges as directed by our leaders. We submit ourselves to the guidance of our Mother Church by empowering each and every apostolate, ministry, and individual members.

5.7 We move in the Spirit.

Our name reflects the inner disposition of our hearts – a welcoming place for the Holy Spirit. We are with God and for God; we belong to Him as His sons and daughters. We are blessed with charismatic gifts. We unite our decisions and actions with our Father's will, for example, in starting new communities, selecting new leaders, appointing members to ministry, formulating policy, and determining worship theme and directions. In decision making, we consult with those who have authority over us and with those who will be affected. Our openness to God allows us to be open to one another. One with God and with each other, we move as one community in the Spirit.

5.8 We collaborate in ministry.

We are parts of the one body of Christ (1Cor 12:12), each one essential for the proper functioning of the whole. We are equipped with many gifts, which we release and unify to serve the Giver's purpose. We are assigned to our ministries based on our gifts and fruitfulness. We consider a call to serve in ministry as a call that comes from the Lord. We work interdependently. We communicate, cooperate, collaborate and help one another in every possible way, so that the fruit of our labor may truly be a fragrant offering to the Lord and redound to the common good. Each apostolate/ ministry is co-equal with all the other apostolates/ ministries, each one respecting the other in a collaborative and loving spirit.

5.9 We embrace the Catholic Social Mission.

We reach out and build relationships of love and justice in the world by our commitment to the Church's social mission. We believe that every human being is created in God's image and redeemed by Christ. We advocate the gospel of life and human dignity. We work for poverty alleviation through scholarships and housing for the poor. We espouse advocacy for life, environment and good governance. We call on the government to live up to its duty to promote the common good, to protect the family and the institution of marriage. We care for God's creation and commit ourselves

to be good stewards of God's gifts. Our commitment is rooted in and strengthened by our continuing transformation in Christ and our love for one another as God has loved us.

5.10 We serve the Church

We are filled with the ardor of the Pentecost Spirit and the burning conviction of Paul who cried out, "Woe is me if I do not preach the Gospel" (1Cor 9:16). Our passion for Christ stirs up in us a sense of responsibility and commitment as God's people to serve with great enthusiasm in the Church's mission of evangelization. We honor and obey our Pope, our bishops, and our priests. As a charismatic community, we move in the Spirit and fulfill our calling as lay Catholics to consecrate society to God. As messengers of the Gospel and recipients of the joy of Christ, we serve with our lives so that God's kingdom may be proclaimed and the Church established in the world.

- Nothing follows -

Recommended for Approval by:

The Executive Council of Servant Leaders:



Eliong & Leah Sison
Evangelization



Ed & Malou Malay
Formation



Raul & Mari Garcia
Management

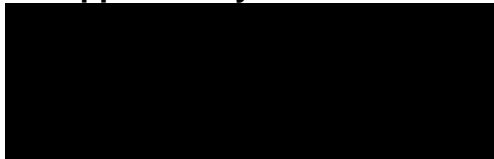


Jojo & Koi Jalandoni
Mission



Dan & Ludy Andres
Pastoral

Approved by:



BLD Community Spiritual Director

Date: December 2, 2012