



Missionarii Sancti Joannis Baptistae

Vox clamantis in deserto, parate viam Domini

1101 AMSTERDAM ROAD ✿ PARK HILLS ✿ KENTUCKY ✿ 41011

St. John the Baptist... An Angel to Prepare His Way!



WHAT IS A MISSION? What is a missionary? It is St. John the Baptist speaking to our souls to convert and make straight the ways of the Lord. Why did Our Lord need a precursor... a St. John the Baptist? St. Ephrem (d. 373) gives an insight into the reason for this in his commentary on *Genesis*. He explains that after Adam had sinned, God wanted Adam to come to Him and repent on his own accord. To make this possible, God gave Adam many opportunities... something like five in all.

First of all St. Ephrem tells us, "God tarried in coming down to them for the sole reason that they might admonish each other and so plead for mercy when the judge came to them." Recall that they did have this time because they used it to fashion fig leaves into clothes. O how many today seek to sew fig leaves (i.e., use natural solutions) to cover up their sinfulness rather than willingly approaching the priest in confession while there is still time!

Next, St. Ephrem tells us, "God endowed His silent footsteps with sound so that Adam and Eve might be prepared, at that sound, to make supplication before Him who made the sound." As we know they did not respond. St. Ephrem goes on: "But since they did not come before Him in supplication, neither because of His delay nor because of the sound that was sent before Him, God then made a sound with His lips, just as He had made a sound for His footsteps and said, 'Where are you, Adam?'"

God has been known to conduct His own sort of mission... with signs, sounds and wonders (waves, earthquakes, fire from heaven) that will make us

realize our end is near! Still, we know that even after this our first parents still did not repent. In fact, we do not hear of Adam repenting even after God punished the serpent and Eve before him... all given to move him to repentance. No repentance seems to have come out readily. Yet, to be fair, we know that Adam did repent because God clothed him in the skins of animals... symbolic of being clothed with Christ... after the shedding of blood. Oh how important it is to respond to the graces God sends us at the beginning! Much evil can be averted and great victories won.



From this stubbornness in Adam, we can see why God put so much time between Adam's sin and His coming to us at Christmas. Man needed much time to see and know his sinfulness... of his dire need for a Savior. Oh how hard is the heart of man!! St. Ephrem then shows the link to St. John the Baptist: "Now the sound of the feet that went before God... prefigured the voice of John, who was to come before the Son."

Here, then, is the role of St. John the Baptist and all mission preachers: to help the fallen children of Adam repent... even to run to the Savior for mercy and timely aid. This example of Adam shows how hard it is to deal with God directly. Thus, God sent "an angel before Him to prepare His way" ... "a lamp for His Christ."

We have postulants entering this summer to determine whether they too might be other such angels preparing His way. Please pray for them and vocations to our budding missionary community and thank you for continuing to help us build up the Mystical Body of Christ on earth. ✿

WE ARE HAPPY TO REPORT that we are now living in the house purchased last Summer. Although we are still in the process of refurbishing this dwelling located at 1113 Amsterdam Road, it has become our main religious house, containing our library, refectory, community recreation room and six bedrooms. The plans for an expanded parking lot incorporating the empty lot we aquired along with this house are being prepared.

Furthermore, we are pleased to report that a contract for restoring the Bell Tower and its future bells is also being prepared for approval. The bells will soon be restored and readied for installation, and we hope to raise enough funds to restore the stained glass windows in the upper section of the bell tower.

Finally, we are also pleased to announce our first annual benefit dinner for the MSJB, held on June 7 from 5:30 to 9 pm. We will begin with sung Vespers at our parish church of Our Lady of Lourdes and then make our way to the nearby Devou Park Golf & Events Center. Our featured speaker is our long time friend the Maronite Chorbishop, Anthony Spinosa, Rector of the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon. All present will enjoy a live children's play on the apparitions of Lourdes, France as well as other live musical performances. Please see our website www.msjb.info for more details.



As you can see from our pie chart, we are still working towards our goal of \$400,000 for the first phase of our Grotto Building Fund. Your most generous support in the past has made the purchase of this church building a reality. With your further support, we hope to continue to build up the Body of Christ, including a beautiful Grotto for the highest honor of our race. ✠

Please join us in praying the Novena in honor of our heavenly patron, St. John the Baptist. We have provided you with an intention sheet if you desire to unite your intentions with us before the holy altar of God.



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST NOVENA PRAYERS

Days 1, 4, & 7

O GLORIOUS ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, greatest prophet among those born of woman, although thou wast sanctified in thy mother's womb and didst lead a most innocent life, nevertheless it was thy will to retire into the wilderness, there to devote thyself to the practice of austerity and penance; obtain for us of thy Lord the grace to be wholly detached, at least in our hearts, from earthly goods, and to practice Christian mortification with interior recollection and with the spirit of holy prayer. *Amen.*

Days 2, 5, & 8

OMOST ZEALOUS APOSTLE, who, without working any miracle on others, but solely by the example of thy life of penance and the power of thy word, didst draw after thee the multitudes, in order to dispose them to receive the Messiah worthily and to listen to His heavenly doctrine; grant that it may be given unto us, by means of the example of a holy life and the exercise of every good work, to bring many souls to God, but above all those souls that are enveloped in the darkness of error and ignorance and are led astray by vice. *Amen.*

Days 3, 6, & 9

O MARTYR INVINCIBLE, who, for the honor of God and the salvation of souls, didst with firmness and constancy withstand the impiety of Herod even at the cost of thine own life, and didst rebuke him openly for his wicked and dissolute life; by thy prayers obtain for us a heart, brave and generous, in order that we may overcome all human respect and openly profess our faith in loyal obedience to the teachings of Jesus Christ, our divine Master. *Amen.*

(end each day by mentioning petitions here)

- V. O glorious St. John the Baptist, through the love thou dost bear to Jesus Christ, and for the glory of His Name,
- R. Hear our prayers and obtain our petitions.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...



Should you wish to contribute to our work, please make out checks to:

The Missionaries of St. John the Baptist –or– MSJB

May God reward you!

The Missionaries of Saint John the Baptist (www.msjb.info)





St. John the Baptist Novena Intentions & Petitions
