

Gracious God, we praise you at every moment of our lives. May your Holy Spirit give us the courage to hold fast to the Gospel of Life and empower us to bring your love into our world. Guide our days and make us witnesses to your glory. We ask this through Jesus, who walks with us, now and always.

O gracious God, through your son, Jesus, help us to spread your fragrance everywhere we go. Flood our souls with Your Spirit and Life. Penetrate and possess our whole being so utterly, that our lives may only be a radiance of Yours. Shine through us and be so in us that every soul with whom we have contact, may feel your presence in our soul. We ask all of this through the power of Your Holy Spirit. Amen

“The hand of the Lord was with him.”

This is not only about John the Baptist. It’s about us. It’s about the purpose of God for our lives. He calls us to be His witness. He calls us to be faithful and fruitful in His service. We learn from John the Baptist – “a voice crying in the wilderness” (Luke 3:4). We look at the “wilderness” of today’s world. It is a world of “ungodliness and unrighteousness.” It is a world that has fallen under the judgment of God (Romans 1:18). Is there a way back to God? John the Baptist gives us God’s answer to this all-important question. He points us to our Saviour, Jesus Christ. He calls us to look away from ourselves. He calls us to look to Jesus, “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). May our words, in this sinful generation, be a living echo of the voice of John the Baptist in his generation. May our words point to the Saviour. May our words call men and women to come to Christ and receive, through faith in Him, the forgiveness of all their sins.

May the Most Blessed Virgin Mary be for us on this day, more than on any other day, our mediator before her Divine Son, in order that, through Her, the grace of the Lord might come into our hearts and make us new men according to the heart of God, united in a single faith, a single hope, a single love, in an eternal communion with the Body and Blood of Christ! Amen!