



Missionarii Sancti Joannis Baptistæ

Vox clamantis in deserto, parate viam Domini

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Venite Adoremus — O Come Let us Adore



COME LET US ADORE... let us adore the Holy Will of God, for His Will is adorable. A striking prayer of resignation comes to mind: "I adore, without seeking to understand, Thy Holy Will. I resign myself to Thee, entirely and absolutely." To adore the Holy Will of God is to conform to this same will. *Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.* In Pope Clement's prayer for all things necessary for salvation, he prayed: "Lord, I desire that in all things Thy Will may be done because it is Thy Will, and in the manner that Thou willest." St. Alphonsus instructs us: "To do God's will—this was the goal upon which the saints constantly fixed their gaze. They were fully persuaded that in this consists the entire perfection of the soul." He went so far as to say, "A single act of uniformity with the divine will suffices to make a saint." He surely had the great Job in mind, who wonderfully stated after losing nearly everything dear to him: "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away: as it hath pleased the Lord so is it done: blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21).

As you know well the MSJB has been through many painful trials over the last couple of years, including being officially suppressed as a public association of the faithful earlier this year. This act came through the Visible Church on earth. Thus we cannot but recognize and accept it as the Will of God at this moment, and so we adore His Will as being what is best for us at this time. We make the words of Job our own: "as it hath pleased the Lord so is it done: blessed be the name of the Lord."

As St. Vincent Ferrer predicted about the

difficulties in times like these, the Sacrament of Confirmation is needed to endure and not give way to the spirit of the age. St. Robert Bellarmine summarized the effects of this Sacrament in his *Art of Dying Well*: "the Bishop gives the person about to be confirmed a slight blow, that he may remember he now becomes a soldier of Christ, not to strike, but to endure; not to do injuries to others, but to bear them." As many are experiencing in this age of the Church, the most trying blows can come from the prelates who administer this very Sacrament.



After the suppression of our status as a public association, with proper consultation and discernment, we decided to remain together as private association (*de facto* in canonical terms) and maintain our stand alone non-profit civil corporation, the Missionaries of Saint John the Baptist (MSJB). We are determined to continue to build up the Mystical Body of Christ in ways open to us. And so we have put together the following summary of the purposes for which we continue to exist (cf. the About page on www.msjb.info):

(1) to strive, as indicated by the teaching of *Perfectae Caritatis* Vatican II (cf. no. 2), to imitate His Majesty, Jesus Christ, and our holy founder Fr. Jean Baptiste Rauzan (d. 1847). We will do as they did, and as our own bishop has recently instructed us: patiently to "pursue the life of contemplation and penance," and "[t]here is nothing to prevent you as individuals from living and praying in common and continuing to seek Christian perfection together." In a word, we strive to follow as closely as possible the spirit, writings, and written rule of Fr. Jean Baptiste Rauzan in order to remain faithful sons of the Holy Roman Catholic Church.



Novena for Christmas

December 16

O SHEPHERD that rulest Israel, Thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep, come to guide and comfort us. *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 17

O WISDOM that comest out of the Mouth of the Most High, that reachest from one end to another, and orderest all things mightily and sweetly, come to teach us the way of prudence! *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 18

O ADONAI, and Ruler of the House of Israel, Who didst appear unto Moses in the burning bush, and gavest him the law in Sinai, come to redeem us with an outstretched arm! *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory...*

December 19

O ROOT of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people, at Whom the kings shall shut their mouths, Whom the Gentiles shall seek, come to deliver us, do not tarry. *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 20

O KEY of David, and Sceptre of the House of Israel, that openeth and no man shutteth, and shutteth and no man openeth, come to liberate the prisoner from the prison, and them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death. *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 21

O DAYSPRING, Brightness of the everlasting light, Sun of justice, come to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death! *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 22

O KING of the Gentiles, yea, and desire thereof! O Cornerstone, that makest of two one, come to save man, whom Thou hast made out of the dust of the earth! *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 23

O EMMANUEL, our King and our Law-Giver, Longing of the Gentiles, yea, and salvation thereof, come to save us, O Lord our God! *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 24

O THOU that sittest upon the cherubim, God of hosts, come, show Thy face, and we shall be saved. *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

(2) to live in community in view of (1) in which common religious life is lived in a disciplined, traditional manner, including the celebration of the liturgy according to the *usus antiquior* of the Roman Rite, with the liturgical books of 1962 being normative.

(3) to maintain the patrimony and contracts of the MSJB, now a private association (de facto; cf. cc. 215, 310) and stand alone non-profit civil incorporation.

(4) to build up the Body of Christ in the ways open to us (cf. Eph 4:12, 16 and Romans 14:19), such as maintaining a pious presence in the Church, maintaining our online presence, seeking further education of our members, and acting as instruments of Divine Providence in assisting priests and religious in distress.

(5) to do all things necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of the MSJB as may be lawfully done under the law of the Catholic Church, the Statutes of the MSJB and civil law, including the disposition of property by lease, sale, exchange, transfer or otherwise.

We are currently working on a lease with the Diocese of Covington to use our church for the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes. So far, the negotiations have been slow. We are now awaiting the final ruling of the Supreme Court of Kentucky on whether we can build our Grotto under the current zoning laws. We also offered as has been our custom the Octave of Masses for the Poor and Holy Souls of Purgatory, especially remembering those of our relatives, friends, and benefactors starting on November 1st. We plan to continue this practice.

Let us all adore the Holy Will of God. That is why we approach the crib on Christmas, to bow down as did the shepherds and kings of old, and submit our wills to His. As the saints teach us: *these are the days of men, days when men oppose their wills to the will of God, but at His Majesty's Second Coming will be the day of God, a day on which God imposes His will on men.* If our wills are conformed and united to God's, we will be in good stead on that awe-filled day. 🌟

Our gift to our benefactors is this: daily prayer and the offering of Holy Mass for them all on Christmas Day through its Octave.

Please consider contributing to this work, making checks to:

The Missionaries of St. John the Baptist or just MSJB

Thank you for your support! May God reward you!

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

