

Rectoría de San Juan de Dios  
III Sunday of Advent-Cycle B  
Is 61, 1-2.10-11; Lk 1; 1 Thes 5, 16-24; Jn 1, 6-8.19-28;  
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## Witnesses of the Light

The Gospel presents John the Baptist as a *witness of the light* at a time when the people of Israel are going through a struggle between the darkness and the light. That time can be compared with our present time. Today we also live this struggle between the darkness and the light; there are very few witnesses in our society and even fewer who offer a well-informed testimony to something luminous.

We want to be witnesses *of the light* in the way of John the Baptist, but with our own abilities and resources.

First let us discover what it means to be *witnesses of the light*. It could help us to imagine a lighted room. Imagine that we are outside in the darkness; the one who looks out shows only his face and, at that moment, he appears to be painted white; then he turns toward the others. Each person sees something in his aspect, something symbolic that lets him know that the interior of that lighted room has the ability to imprint its seal on whoever looks into it. We could ask, what did you see? To insist with curiosity, what is there? But at times, the sign is enough, or better, the sign communicates more than words. In the end, whoever wants to know more will have to live the experience of that glimpse.

The scene at the sepulcher on the day of the resurrection can help us to understand better. We all remember that once the women found the stone rolled away and the sepulcher empty, they took the news to the disciples.

We remember who went running to the sepulcher: Peter and John. John arrived first, *looked inside and saw the bandages on the ground and the shroud folded up in a separate place*, but he did not go inside; then Peter, who had been following him, arrived. Can you imagine what Peter saw in John's face? John would have turned around to meet Peter's gaze with his face now full of his experience. John showed the light of life and hope of the resurrection and he was marked by that fleeting glimpse.

In this way, I consider that one can understand being *a witness of the light*. This means showing to others our illuminated face that comes from our glimpses of the mystery and the mercy of God.

The world needs *witnesses*, and it needs *light*; it needs *witnesses of the light*. The world needs to be illuminated by the splendor of the Truth and Love that we have reached through our glimpses of the mystery of God.

To be a witness to the light:

1-Let us experience our anointing.

Anointed by Baptism and Confirmation, each Christian is sent to communicate the Spirit that lives in him and the freedoms that the anointing brings.

In the first reading, we hear that the prophet has been anointed and sent to announce the good news to the poor; we, *the new witnesses of the light*, can remember the times that we have liberated someone. Do you remember? The instant that you forgave a monetary debt or an offense of someone who asked for forgiveness, how did his face light up? Those are our glimpses of the mystery of God.

A mother may wear herself out for her children, depriving herself of food so that her children don't suffer scarcities. Someone could return from death, someone else could be a witness to heroism in the best sense; all these are signs of the mystery of God that illumines our faces as the *new witnesses of the light*.

## 2- Let us allow the Spirit to act.

The charisms of our brothers and sisters in the family and in the community are luminous; we must promote them and allow them to illuminate the darkness of the world in which we find ourselves. The Apostle exhorts us to not quench the Spirit and to live with joy, keeping ourselves blameless until the end.

A *witness of the light* becomes accustomed to discovering the charisms of light in any place; as an expert witness, he is called to discover and promote the movements of the Spirit to the best of his ability.

At times, it is hard to accept the gifts that God has given to others; for a true witness, it is a joy to discover these gifts with their light, because he knows that the world needs them and that the action of the Spirit has no end.

## 3-Let us be a joyful voice in the desert.

John said of himself: *I am a voice crying in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord*.

We can be a joyful voice, announcing the Lord from our own experience. Being a joyful voice in this new urban desert, we can modify the vision of the world held by so many of our brothers and sisters who find themselves in darkness. We can break the darkness of murky relationships and ideologies that oppress or impoverish man.

Let us not hide our testimony of the Light. The world needs to know of our experiences of the mystery and love of God; let us be today and always *witnesses of the light*.