

Prepare the way of the Lord! John the Baptist is proclaiming the coming of the Messiah and our need for reform, of conversion. He is setting up big time expectations for us.

During these past few weeks we are beginning to hear Good News along with the bad; soon the longed for vaccination against COVID 19 will appear. We are beginning to think about the end of the pandemic! How does this make you feel? Perhaps a little more hopeful. John the Baptist is announcing something even a little bit more promising – a lot more promising!

Almost everyone is aware that there is an ugly division in our country. The presidential election has left our country shattered.

A few days ago I was in the Post Office and suddenly the poor clerk broke down in tears. People were not wearing masks and the situation overwhelmed her. This virus has had a devastating effect on so many people.

At this time we could say the whole world is in travail. There is this endless war in Afghanistan. Wars in Syria, Ethiopia and so many other places. There is the tragedy of racism which eats at the roots of our Country.

I don't want you to get depressed so I better stop.

We have reason to hope, plenty of reason to hope. John the Baptist tells the story. We believe. We have a Savior who keeps coming among us, who loves us, heals us and is coming again!

Our task today and every day is to "Prepare the Way of the Lord". I'd like to make a few suggestions. First of all seek forgiveness. Jesus' forgiveness is abundant, overflowing. Seek peace for that which burdens you, especially with your family and friends.

Open your hearts to the poor. You don't have to "give away the store" but don't be afraid to share. Consider the broken people, the hungry, your sisters and brothers.

Listen to the Spirit of God in your heart. God is living within you. We all need ways of listening, e.g., silent prayer, centering prayer, Scripture especially "Lectio Divina". God loves you and is speaking within you. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Prepare for vaccinations but above all Prepare for the Coming of Jesus!

Walk on, walk on with hope in your heart and you'll never walk alone!