

For many years, courtroom drama was a popular genre in television and movies: Perry Mason, "12 Angry Men," Matlock, "The Verdict." In more recent years, the advent of television courtroom shows - somewhat live-action - namely "The People's Court," and "Judge Judy" come to mind.

In all of these shows as well as in the actual legal system, the testimony of witnesses play an integral part in the presentation.

St. John, in today's first reading, speaks of the multiple testimonies to Our Lord Jesus Christ's claim to be the Son of God.

Yet instead of human testimony, John appeals to Divine testimony in "the Spirit, the water, and the Blood."

In the Gospel, we hear the testimony of John the Baptist to what he experienced at Our Lord's baptism - which we will celebrate this year on a Monday.

Our own lives give testimony to our relationship with God ... and our relationship with Jesus Christ. Our own personal witness to the power of salvation can be done both verbally and non-verbally.

Let us pray to grow more deeply in our relationship to Jesus ... and to God ... as the "beloved" children of God ... the brothers and sisters of Christ ... in whom God can be "well pleased" ... through our living out of the promises made when we were cleansed with the waters of our own Baptism ... through our worthy reception of the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist we will share in today ... and through the transformative power of the Holy Spirit ... operating in our lives each day.