The purpose of our coming here this morning is to nurture all of us into believing that our lives are immersed in, overflowing with, grace.

My role in leading this celebration is to somehow convince us that's true: we are all just gushing with grace, holiness and goodness.

Part of my role is to help us all hear the Scriptures in way that convinces us that what we are hearing is really true.

That Jesus can penetrate our locked doors and that his word to us really is peace, not some kind of scolding for past offenses.

That the likes of us have been sent as messengers of that same peace in God's name.

That it is true, "If you forgive people's sins they are forgiven them and if you fail to forgive you stand in the way God's mercy."

That giving and proclaiming forgiveness is the way we are meant to exercise God's life-giving power in the world.

Forgiveness is the Pentecost vocation God gives us today, all of us. Pope Francis constantly emphasizes forgiveness: that we be instruments of God's mercy.

I'm here to tell you that the Scriptures today say:

- we are all gifted in remarkable, significant ways;
- that none of us has all the gifts;
- and they are not simply given to enhance our own bank accounts They are given "for the common good."

Part of what nurtures us here into believing that we are overflowing with grace is our prayer.

Prayer at its best is some form of awareness.

To pray is to live in the awareness that I, and all of us, are immersed in grace all the time.

Prayer is not about begging.

- Mary Laubacher, IHM - nearly 102 years old and 84 as IHM
- National Gun Violence Awareness Day - Wear Orange, 6/7-9
D-Day = the DAY it's all coming down. 6/6/1944

All these call for a deeper awareness.

AND . . . it seems that the Spirit insists we keep a sense of humor about it all:
   . . . Some days I amaze myself.
   Other days, I'm frantically hunting for my cell phone
   while I'm talking on it.

SFS: "Humility, humility, humility"

We dearly need one another . . . and the help of God.