

Reflection for the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

This Sunday is the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time and our Gospel Reading is taken from the Gospel of John, it is called "*The Wedding Feast in Cana.*" This is the first miracle that is recorded in the Gospel of John. This Gospel records only 7 of the 37 miracles of Jesus that are presented in the New Testament. The miracle at the Wedding Feast in Cana is only mentioned in the Gospel of John but is considered the first miracle that Jesus performed. In St. John's account of this first miracle, Jesus went to a wedding with his disciples in Cana, and His mother, our Blessed Mother was also at the wedding. At the Wedding Feast the wine ran out and Mary approached her Son and informed Him that they had run out of wine. Jesus informs His mother that it is not His time. Mary informs the servers to do whatever He tells them to do. Jesus tells the servers to fill six stone jars that hold twenty to thirty gallons with water and then to draw some of it out and take it to the headwaiter. When the headwaiter tasted the water made wine, not knowing where it came from, he commented to the bridegroom that they had saved the good wine until now.

There is so much in this Gospel Reading to reflect on and so much that is happening on this Second Sunday of Ordinary Time that one might not know where to start. One could start with reflecting on the fact that no matter what Gospel Cycle one is in, A, B, or C the reading for the Gospel on the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time is taken from the Gospel of John. It is only in Cycle C that one hears of the Wedding Feast of Cana. In Cycle A and B the Gospel Reading is about Jesus being the Lamb of God. So once every three years on the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time we are privileged to have this Gospel Reading. It is also not uncommon for the Gospel Reading of the Wedding Feast of Cana to be read at Weddings. It might make sense to focus on the Sacrament of Marriage when this Gospel Reading is read on the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time. In fact, it is common to reference this Gospel Reading when stating that Jesus instituted Marriage as one of the Seven Sacraments of our Faith. Clearly in Jesus Christ's actions at the Wedding Feast of Cana He is supporting and approving of the union of husband and wife.

What we also see in the Gospel Reading this Sunday is Jesus, hearing a request and concern from His mother and responding to that concern. This action of Jesus, after He first points out that it is not His time to work a miracle, shows that He supports, encourages and respects the family unit. It is the family that is the domestic Church, and it is the love of husband and wife that with God's grace brings forth a family. Jesus' simple respect for the request of His Mother shows His acceptance of the understanding that a man would leave his father and mother and cling to his wife and the two would become one. It is this relationship that is the foundation of the family and the domestic Church, but it is also this relationship that is the foundation for society and civilization. Where would we as a world be without families to shape and mold the minds and hearts of children and the youth? Where would we as a world be without mothers and fathers to love, cherish, and protect the future leaders of the world. It is in the family that one first experiences love, protection and support. It is the family that prepares us to go forth in the world and make a difference. It is also in the family that one first hears of who, God is and helps us develop a relationship with the one that has created us. It is the love that a man and woman have, for each other that enables the family to be possible and from this love springs forth, a family, society and civilization.

As a Church, we must continue to encourage and support the Sacrament of Marriage for it is this Sacrament that is the foundation of the family, which in turn is the foundation of society and civilization. It is amazing to think that the miracle at the Wedding Feast of Cana was not just about the relationship of one man and one woman, but this miracle is about the Sacrament of Marriage and about the future of society and civilization. As we encourage and support couples growing in love for each other and growing in their faith as a couple, the domestic Church grows stronger, and Society as a whole is strengthened.