

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS: Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11

Johnny Carson was interviewing an eight-year-old boy one night. The young man was asked to appear on the Late Show because he had rescued two friends from a coal mine outside his hometown in West Virginia. As Johnny questioned him, it became apparent that the boy was a Christian. Johnny asked him if he attended Sunday school. When the boy said he did, Johnny inquired, **"What are you learning in Sunday school?"** "Last week," the boy replied, "our lesson was about how Jesus went to a wedding and turned water into wine." The audience burst into laughter and applause. Keeping a straight face, Johnny asked, "And what did you learn from that story?" The boy squirmed in his chair. It was apparent he hadn't thought about this. But then he lifted up his face and said, **"If you're going to have a wedding, make sure you invite Jesus and Mary!"** And that is precisely the message of today's Gospel: **"When you invite Jesus into your home, you are never the same again."**

The young couple in today's gospel would agree with that woman. They invited Jesus into their home, and he worked his first miracle there. They were never the same again. It is probably no coincidence that this first miracle of Jesus, turning water into wine, foreshadowed his final miracle, turning wine into his own blood. It is probably no coincidence either that Jesus also worked that miracle in a home, the home of Mark. (Mark 14:12-15; Acts 12:12) Like the Cana couple, John Mark and his family were never the same again.

A little recognized fact about Jesus is how often he worked miracles in people's homes. For example, **when Peter first invited Jesus to his home**, the first thing Jesus did was to cure Peter's mother-in-law. (Mark 1:31) When Jairus, the **synagogue official, invited Jesus** to his home, the first thing Jesus did was to restore life of Jairus' daughter, who had just died. (Mark 5:41) Neither Peter's family nor Jairus' family were ever the same again. Then there was a leading Pharisee. He invited Jesus to dinner one day, and one of the first things Jesus did was to cure a sick man at his house. (Luke 14:4) **And who can forget Zacchaeus**, the cutthroat tax collector of Jericho? He also welcomed Jesus into his house one day. The two talked for a while, and Zacchaeus ended up giving half his belongings to the poor and paying back to those he cheated four times what he took. Finally, there is that moving episode at Emmaus on Easter night. Two men invited Jesus to supper, although at the time they did not know it was Jesus. Jesus ended up celebrating with them the very first Eucharist after the Last Supper. (Luke 24:30) These are just a few examples of how people invited Jesus into their homes and were never the same again.

These examples make us ask ourselves, **"Have we ever consciously invited Jesus into our home, in a practical way?"** For example, if an interior decorator checked over your home, would he or she see any evidence on your walls that your family follows Jesus? Or, would the decorator merely say, "I see your kids are big followers of Bruce Springsteen and Michael Jackson." Or, suppose your daughter brought home a friend from college. Would that friend say to her on their return trip to college: "Your family is really Christian. I cannot remember praying at meals as I prayed in your home. And I cannot remember seeing such love as I saw in your home. You know there was something else. I cannot remember hearing your family put anyone down." That college friend would never be the same again, because she had met Jesus in your home.

Inviting Jesus into our home could be the most important thing we ever do. And the way we do it can range all the way from concretizing Jesus' presence with a crucifix or picture to praying reverently at meals. Or it can range all the way from treating each other with genuine love to never speaking ill of others. Once we invite Jesus into our home, we can expect something special. Jesus never visits a home without doing something special. This is one of the messages in today's gospel. It is a message we all need to hear. It is a message we all need to take to heart. It is a message that could change our family life together. In the words of the woman who wrote the article: "This much I know. When you invite Jesus into your home, you are never the same again." Jesus himself makes this promise to families in the Book of Revelation 3:20: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me."

Remember, **Wherever Jesus is, there is always an Abundance.** When Jesus changed water into wine at Cana, there was an abundance of wine – almost 600 liters. When Jesus multiplied five loaves and two fish, there remained twelve baskets full of remaining, even after 5000 people had eaten their fill. Wherever Jesus is there, there is always an abundance. We invite Jesus into our lives, into our homes and into our business, there is always a superabundance of His blessings.

Wherever Jesus is, there is always a Richness. The quality of wine, which Jesus created at the wedding at Cana, was great; but the quality was also good. The steward who tasted it found it good. Not knowing where the wine had come from he went to the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." The wine which Jesus provided was healthy and exhilarating - it was a good wine. Jesus does not multiply junk. He multiplies and bestows only good things in life.

With whomever Jesus is, their future is insured. Six hundred liters of wine is an excess by any standard. Was it a sheer waste that Jesus created? When Jesus multiplied five loaves and two fish, there was an excess, but not superabundance like the wine. The Lord knew that fish and bread had to be eaten immediately and if kept long the bread would become moldy and the fish would putrefy. Therefore, there was not much of an excess. Wine is good for drinking as well as for preserving. It could also be sold. It has been suggested that Jesus created such an abundance of wine so that the married couple, who were poor, could sell the wine and begin the married life in comfort. If that is the case, what a foresight of the Savior! He not only saved them from the present embarrassment, but also insured their future. Let us invite Jesus into our hearts and into our homes, so that we may receive His abundant blessings.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, come into our home and bless it. Bless the doors of our home. May they always be open to the stranger and the lonely. Bless the rooms of our home. May they always be filled with your presence. Above all, bless each member of our family. May their minds be ever open to your Word. May their hands be ever outstretched to the needy. May their hearts be ever turned toward you. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord ...Amen.