

January 16, 2022
2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time
Is 62:1-5
Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10
Jn 2:1-11

REVEALING HIMSELF!

One night a priest, who is driving erratically, gets pulled over by a police officer. The police officer asks him if he has been drinking. The priest says he has been drinking water all night. The police officer sees a bottle of wine in the passenger seat and tells the priest what he sees. The priest then casually says to the police officer, "**Oh my goodness! Jesus has done it again!**"

Joking aside, the water turning into wine, in the gospel proclaimed, was the first public sign and miracle which the Lord Jesus did. This miracle happened at the wedding in Cana. *(If you have been to the Church in Cana, you will see how huge the stone water jars were.)* This miracle conveyed an essential message on who the Lord Jesus is.

To appreciate more what the Lord Jesus has done, it is important to know the significance of the wine in the life of the people. During the time of the Lord Jesus, water was a scarcity. It was easier to avail of the wine than water. Wine was more of a necessity than a luxury. With this in mind, wine symbolizes sustenance and life. Thus, it was necessary in every celebration to have wine like in a wedding party. To run out of wine means the feast is over. To run out of wine, while the celebration is still going on, brings embarrassment/humiliation, not only to the bride and groom, but for the whole clans of both parties. **Why?** It is simply because a wedding celebration is not just the union of the bride and the groom but the two clans as well. Turning the water into wine was an act of loving kindness on the part of the Lord Jesus to save the bride and the groom and their respective clan from public disgrace.

Who is the Lord Jesus then in this episode of the Gospel? Aside from being a person of loving kindness, the Lord Jesus revealed himself as the God of joy and great blessing to the newly wedded couple and the whole party. His presence was a blessing and saving them from running out of wine brought continuous joy in the celebration. His presence indicated sustenance and life. What the Lord Jesus did also prefigures the endless joy in God's kingdom!

Two weeks ago, we celebrated the **Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord**. Last week, we celebrated the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**. If the **Feast of the Epiphany the Lord**, God revealed himself to the Gentiles; and the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**, God revealed that the Lord Jesus was his 'beloved Son;' **at the wedding in Cana**, God,

in the person of the Lord Jesus, revealed himself as the God who cares for his people. His act of loving kindness bared his powerful love and mercy for all. He came to offer us sustenance and life. All these manifestations will ultimately be shown in his death on the Cross for our salvation.

God's revelation of himself did not stop at the **Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord**. God did not stop revealing himself neither at the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord** nor at the **Wedding in Cana**. God is continuously revealing himself to us every day particularly in the celebration of the Sacraments like the Holy Eucharist. Thus, the Universal Church is always calling/inviting to frequently/regularly attend the Mass, at least every Sunday. And when we are already at Mass, the Universal Church calls us to participate in the celebration actively, fully, and consciously with open mind and heart. **Why?** It is for our own good and the good of his Holy Church.

Look at what happened at the wedding in Cana. The miracle was not for the good of the Lord Jesus but for the good of the newly wedded couple and the whole wedding party. With the Lord Jesus in their midst, they experienced great blessings and enormous joy. They witnessed God's powerful love and mercy for them all. The same thing will happen to us here in the celebration when we humbly submit ourselves to him. Joy and great blessings will overflow when we allow him to make his home in our hearts.

What is the challenge for us today? The challenge for us is to keep on inviting the Lord Jesus into our lives and allow him to do whatever he pleases. If we do, he can transform us into the best person that we can be. Remember, he was able to turn the water into wine. Therefore, it is not impossible for the Lord Jesus to turn us from 'awfulness to awesomeness.' A good example of a person who the Lord Jesus turned from 'awfulness to awesomeness' is St. Augustine. His conversion made him realized that the gifts he had were meant to be shared for the advancement of God's kingdom here on earth. He died on **August 28, in the year 430** but his legacy lives on to this day in the Augustinian Religious Congregation.

As we continue our Eucharistic celebration, we beg the Lord Jesus to transform us so we can courageously reveal him to others through our words and actions. May our transformation bring great blessings and joy to all the people we are going to encounter.

God bless and stay safe!