

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 20, 2019 – Reflection

The invitations have been sent out ... you're on the list ... it will be the social event of a lifetime. It's not some wedding in a little town that happened a long, long time ago. God the Father requests your presence at a banquet to be given in honor of His Son. It is a wedding, a union of hearts and souls; Jesus the Bridegroom with you the beloved.

The hall to receive you is set, the guests arrived, the dinner laid out. All that remains is for you to respond. Will you take the Groom's hand and enter the feast, or send regrets and continue to live the single life??

Perhaps you need time to think over the proposal. What would be involved in walking down the aisle with Jesus? What would union with the Son of God look like ... feel like?? What are the ingredients in this love feast? What do you need to make a good marriage, a good life with Jesus ... or with anyone, for that matter?!!

Look at John's recounting of that Wedding Feast at Cana in Galilee. It all happened so, so long ago, and yet, what made that day a miracle is exactly what can make your life in the Lord, with the Lord, worth living!

Back then, Jesus' Mother was there ... His family who loved Him, raised Him, taught Him. So for us to walk with God, we need family to teach us of God, to lead us to God. We need family give us example of the good and even to show us what happens in the bad. The family that supports us in this relationship with Jesus may not be a birth family or

a blood family. It may be a church family, a family of friends, a family of soul-searchers and dream-weavers. But it will be a family that cherishes God's invitation as a sacred call to love forever.

At Cana, the Disciples were invited to the wedding and they came with their friend Jesus. Their friendship with the Lord reminds us that no man is an island. We need friends to walk the road to life with us. We need to allow them to inspire us along the way and as we fall into the arms of our one true Love, Jesus, we need to inspire them right back.

And, sadly, those empty, embarrassing jugs were there in Cana. There was no more wine ... the life of the party had been drained out ... gone, that is, until the Guest of Honor arrived. He had those sad, barren, dry jars filled with gallons upon gallons of water, and from that Baptism of abundance, the wine flowed that would never run dry, never turn sour. His great love, His passion tells us that life, love cannot be ho-hum, cannot be going through the motions, cannot be lukewarm. We need to keep the passion for love alive. And, the fires of passion, the fires of love are stoked not by the great gesture or the expensive rarely given gift. That fire is kept burning one little piece of kindling at a time, one ember of a little act of kindness done in the name of the Beloved; one little sacrifice freely offered; one tear of empathy shed; one helping hand extended; one word of appreciation and gratitude expressed; one caress of care offered. Passion for Jesus is rarely kept alive in the singular grand gesture, but most often in the thousand points of light shone in a dark world in the name of Jesus, my light, my life, my love.

And, of course, Jesus was there in Cana. He saved the day. Without Him there would only have been a dry, empty, lonely, sad little affair. That's just what my life would have been if Jesus had never walked

into it; if Jesus had never asked me to follow His lead; if Jesus had never filled me with the wine of His love, if Jesus had never invited me to be His; and if I had never said "Yes!"