COMMENTARY

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time: Year C

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1–5
Response: Psalm 96:3
Psalm: Psalm 96:1–3, 7–10
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4–11
Gospel Acclamation: 2 Thessalonians 2:14

Gospel: John 2:1–11

"On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰ 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." ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Why do you think Jesus decided to perform His first miracle at a wedding? What lesson is Jesus trying to teach us? Let us enter into the role of the servants. Picture yourself as one of these servants. Menial task of filling the stone water jars. But Mary and Jesus are seeing with the eyes of faith. They want to involve you in manifesting Jesus' glory! We need to see our daily tasks with the eyes of faith, to believe that filling our daily tasks up to the brim with love transforms small actions into great ones.

"When Cardinal François-Xavier Nguyên van Thuân was imprisoned, he refused to waste time waiting for the day he would be set free. Instead, he chose "to live the present moment, filling it to the brim with love". He decided: "I will seize the occasions that present themselves every day; I will accomplish ordinary actions in an extraordinary way." **- Pope Francis, Gaudete et Exsultate 17**

"Today's readings are overflowing with nuptials of heaven and earth (cf. Isaiah 62:5). God wants to marry us! That's the whole Bible in five words. And we want to marry him – that's what our deepest hunger for love (eros) is all about. But eros often gets off course because we have all "run out of wine." In the Bible, wine is a symbol of divine love (agape). Since the dawn of sin, eros has been cut off from agape. Christ's first miracle, which we read about in today's gospel, is to restore the wine (agape) to eros in superabundance. Superabundance is an understatement: those six jars held twenty to thirty gallons each (see John 2:6). Average it out and that's 150 gallons of "the best wine" – about 750 bottles! And Jesus wants us to drink up! He invites us to a holy intoxication on God's wine so that our entire humanity – body and soul, sexuality and spirituality – becomes enflamed with divine love. Isn't that what the crowd accused the apostles of on Pentecost day when the fire of God's love descended upon them? "They have had too much new wine" (see Acts 2:13-15). Where do we get the idea that Jesus is a party pooper? Lord, show us how to drink deeply of the new wine you offer us." **– Christopher West,** *Word Made Flesh: A Companion to the Sunday Readings: Year C.*

"Jesus is the divine Bridegroom (see John 3:29), calling us to His royal wedding feast (see Matthew 22:1-14). By His New Covenant, He will become "one flesh" with all humanity in the Church (see Ephesians 5:21-33). By our Baptism, each of us has been betrothed to Christ as a bride to a Husband (see 2 Corinthians 11:2)." **– Scott Hahn**