

**GOSPEL***John 2:1-11*

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." Jesus said, "Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews; each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water," and they filled them to the brim. "Draw some out now," he told them, "and take it to the steward." They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, "People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink, but you have kept the best wine till now."

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

**HOMILY OF ST JOHN PAUL II***20 January, 1980 (Excerpt, Translated)*

In today's Gospel we read that the Lord Jesus was invited to take part in the wedding that was taking place in Cana of Galilee. This happened at the very beginning of his magisterial activity, and the episode was engraved in the memory of those present, because it was there that Jesus revealed for the first time the extraordinary power that, from then on, was always to accompany his teaching. We read: "This was the beginning of his signs in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him" ( Jn 2:11).

Although the event takes place at the beginning of the activity of Jesus of Nazareth, there are already disciples (the future apostles) around him, at least those who were called first.

With Jesus, there is also, in Cana of Galilee, his Mother. It even seems that she especially was invited. In fact we read: "There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding, with his disciples" ( Jn 2:1-2). We can therefore deduce that Jesus was invited with his Mother, and perhaps out of respect for her; the disciples instead were invited together with him.

We must concentrate our attention above all on this invitation. For the first time Jesus is invited among men, and he accepts this invitation, he spends time with them, he speaks, he shares in their joy (the wedding is a joyful moment), but also in their concern; and, to avoid the inconveniences, when the wine for the guests runs out he performs the "sign": the first miracle in Cana of Galilee. Many more times Jesus will be invited by men, in the course of his magisterial activity, he will accept their invitations, he will be in contact with them, he will sit at the table, he will converse.

It is worth insisting on this line of events: Jesus Christ is continually invited by individual men and by different communities. Perhaps there is no person in the world who has had so many invitations. Indeed, it must be affirmed that Jesus Christ accepts these invitations, goes with individual men, and stays in the midst of human communities. In the course of his life and his earthly activity, he necessarily had to submit to the conditions of time and place. Instead, after the Resurrection and the Ascension, and after the institution of the Eucharist and of the Church, Jesus Christ in a new way, that is, sacramentally and mystically, can simultaneously be the Guest of all the people and all the communities who invite him. In fact, he said: "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him" ( Jn 14:23).

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And here, dear brothers and sisters, we thus touch the most fundamental truth for each of you, and at the same time for your parish. Your parish too is a Cana of Galilee, to which Jesus is invited. He has accepted this invitation, and he dwells among you. He dwells tirelessly, incessantly. He dwells in the communities to accept, in their midst, the invitation of each one. And the guest comes and stays.

Meditate deeply on this presence of Jesus Christ in your parish and in each of you. Are you truly hospitable to him?

At Cana, Mary also revealed herself in the full simplicity and truth of her motherhood. Motherhood is always open to man. She participates in his concerns, even the most hidden ones. She takes on these concerns and tries to remedy them. This was the case during the wedding reception at Cana.

When the "wine ran out" ( Jn 2:3) the steward and the bride and groom were certainly in great embarrassment. And then the Mother of Jesus said to them: "They have no more wine" ( Jn 2:3).

At the same time, Mary reveals herself at Cana in Galilee as a mother aware of her Son's mission, aware of his Power.

It was precisely this awareness that pushed her to say to the servants: "Do whatever he tells you" ( Jn 2:5). And the servants followed the indication of the Mother of Christ.

What else can I wish for you, on the occasion of today's meeting, for you, spouses and families; for you, young people and children; for you, the sick and suffering, wearied by age; for you, finally, dear pastors of souls, men and women religious; for all of you?

What can I wish for you if not that you always listen to these words of Mary, Mother of Christ: "Do whatever he tells you"?

And that you accept them with your heart, because from the heart they are pronounced. From the heart of the Mother.

And that you fulfill them: "God has chosen you... calling you to this / with our Gospel, for the possession of the glory of the Lord / our Jesus Christ" ( 2 Thess 2:14).

So accept this call with your whole life.

Realize the words of Jesus Christ.

Be obedient to the Gospel!

Amen.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What stood out to you from the Gospel or Reflection/ Homily?



**Head:** In what ways do you believe your parish and you are hospitable to Jesus?



**Heart:** In light of Mary's request, what do you believe Jesus is asking of you?



**Hands:** What would it look like in your life to accept more deeply that "God has chosen you"?

## PRAYER

Spend some time in prayer with one another:

1. Conscious of what has just been shared, members briefly name/ describe their prayer needs.
2. Intentionally call on the Holy Spirit to be present (e.g. "Come Holy Spirit, please be present as we pray")
3. Offer prayers of thanks and praise to God.
4. Pray for each others' prayer needs. Where appropriate, you may like to encourage the group to place a hand on the shoulder of the individual that you are currently praying for.
5. Conclude your prayer time with another prayer of praise, perhaps praying the 'Glory Be'.