

## Reflection for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

This Sunday is the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, and our Gospel Reading is taken from the Gospel of John, and it is called "*The Wedding Feast in Cana.*" This is the first miracle that is recorded in the Gospel of John. This Gospel records only 7 of the 37 miracles of Jesus that are presented in the New Testament. The seven miracles performed by Jesus that are found in the Gospel of John are 1 turning water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana, 2 healing the official's son, 3 healing the crippled man, 4 feeding the five thousand, 5 walking on water, 6 healing the blind man, and 7 raising Lazarus from the dead. Of the seven miracles of Jesus that are recorded in the Gospel of John three of them are only recorded in John, and they are 1 the wedding feast of Cana, John 2:1-12, 2 the healing of the official's son, John 4:46-54, and 3 the raising of Lazarus from the dead, John 11: 1-44. It is interesting to note that the Gospel of John contains only seven miracles that Jesus performed, seven is of course the number for perfection, and the number of Sacraments that Jesus Christ instituted. Also, three of the seven miracles are only shared in the Gospel of John, three being the number in the Holy Trinity. The number of three and seven miracles might be an intentional act by the author of the Gospel, or it might just be the hand of God reminding us of the seven Sacraments and the three persons in the Holy Trinity.

The miracle at the Wedding Feast in Cana is only mentioned in the Gospel of John but is considered the first miracle that Jesus performed. In St. John's account of this first miracle, Jesus went to a Wedding with his disciples in Cana, and His mother, our Blessed Mother was also at the Wedding. At the Wedding Feast the wine ran out and Mary approached her Son and informed Him that they had ran out of wine. Jesus informs His mother that it is not His time. Mary informs the servers to do whatever He tells them to do. Jesus tells the servers to fill six stone jars that hold twenty to thirty gallons with water and then to draw some of it out and take it to the headwaiter. When the headwaiter tasted the water made wine, not knowing where it came from, he commented to the groom that they had saved the good wine until now. What Jesus gave the bride and groom was not just a suitable replacement but rather it was the choicest of wines, it was the very best.

What we also see in the Gospel Reading this Sunday is Jesus, hearing a request from His mother and responding to that concern. This action of Jesus, after He first points out that it is not His time to work a miracle, shows that He supports, encourages and respects the family. It is the family that is the domestic Church, and it is the love of husband and wife along with God's grace that brings forth a family. Jesus' simple respect for the request of His Mother shows His acceptance of the idea that a man should leave his father and mother and cling to his wife and the two would become one. It is this relationship that is the foundation of the family and the domestic Church. It is also this relationship that is the foundation for society and civilization. Where would we as a world be without families to shape and mold the minds and hearts of children and the youth? Where would we as a world be without mothers and fathers to love, cherish, and protect the future leaders of the world? It is in the family that the first experiences of love, protection and support normally occur. It is the family that prepares us to go forth in the world and make a difference. It is also in the family that one first normally hears of who, God is, and it is in the family we are helped to develop a relationship with the one that has created us. It is the love that a man and woman have for each other that enables the family to be possible. It is from this love that springs forth, a family, society and civilization.

As a Church, we must continue to encourage and support the Sacrament of Marriage for it is this Sacrament that is the foundation of the family, which in turn is the foundation of society and civilization. It is amazing to think that the miracle at the Wedding Feast of Cana was not just about the relationship of one man and one woman, but this miracle is about the Sacrament of Marriage and about the future of society and civilization. As we encourage and support couples growing in love for each other and growing in their faith as a couple, the domestic Church grows stronger, and Society as a whole is strengthened.