

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



“There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee...and the wine ran short.”

Today’s Gospel is an allegory for our life. We are called to live life as a wedding feast, a banquet; in which the wine signifies rejoicing, happiness, joy, laughter, and life.

Scripture many times speaks of the wedding feast. The prophet Hosea speaks of God as a faithful spouse, Jesus himself is referred to as the Bridegroom, and the Book Apocalypse says “Blessed are those invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb”. Heaven itself is described in the Bible as a wedding banquet.

But for many people life in no way resembles a wedding banquet. They know what it means for the wine to run short. When there is no wine there is only water; joy is diluted. Many live life with a diluted joy and little laughter; lack of wine is an image for lack of life itself.

So what is to be done?

The Virgin Mary is the first to notice our situation: “They have no wine.” Jesus answers her in an odd way: “Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.”

Jesus does not call her “Mother”, but “Woman”, and he speaks of an hour.

The Jesuit scripture scholar Ignace De LaPotterie comments on this Gospel in his book “The Hour of Jesus.” In addressing his mother in this way, Jesus prophesies the crucifixion, when, from the cross he will also speak to her in the same way: “Woman, behold your Son”.

The lack of wine at the wedding feast in Cana therefore has a connection with the crucifixion. That connection is explained by what Jesus says next: “My hour has not yet come”.

The theme of “the hour” is frequent in the Gospel of John. Jesus lives in function of an hour, a specific moment, to which all of his life points. Everything he does leads to this hour. At the Last Supper, when Judas leaves the room to betray him, Jesus will say: “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified”.

Jesus understands that this hour means the moment for him to provide the wine which is lacking, the wine which we are lacking. This will be the hour of his passion and Resurrection. We can find this wine, this life, this joy, only through the intercession of the Virgin, and in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. This wine is offered to us today in the liturgy. It is the very life of Jesus himself. Here, when we celebrate the Eucharist, this wine never runs short. There is a living fountain of the life and love of God. Our life also becomes a wedding banquet, a feast.

Jesus can turn water into wine. May he do this for all of us today.

Fr. Sean