



Bringing Home the Word †

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

January 19, 2025

What's New?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Few parties are more enjoyable than a wedding celebration. While the elegance of the flowers and the extravagance of the food and beverages captivate our senses, the real excitement is the love and promise of newness. New relationships are forged, a new family is created, and there's the possibility of new life. No wonder the relationship between God and God's people is often described in marriage imagery, as we see in today's first reading.

This Old Testament passage is post-exilic. The alienation from God is over; the people and God are now reconciled. Much of the language suggests relationship: no longer forsaken or desolate, but now

a delight and espoused (see Isaiah 62:4). Despite having been betrayed, God's mercy has transformed the nation back to its virginal state: "As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you" (62:5). This newness is something to celebrate.

The messianic character of the Cana story has long been recognized. All the newness I mentioned earlier is there, but newness now pertains to the entire community of believers and not simply to the marriage couple, who have no idea what is happening. An important detail of this story is the nature of the wine. What was originally water for ceremonial cleansing was transformed into wine, the quality of which was outstanding. This imagery tells us that there is a messianic banquet awaiting us, one that celebrates our intimate union with God. The joy we experience then will be intoxicating. †

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 62:1-5

As a bridegroom rejoices in his bride / so shall your God rejoice in you.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit....

John 2:1-11

Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.



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now pertains to the entire
community of believers
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marriage couple.***

A Word from Pope Francis

Today, let us try to rummage through our memories, looking for *signs* that the Lord accomplished in my life.... When did I feel the Lord nearer? When did I feel his tenderness and his compassion? ... May she, the Mother who is always attentive as at Cana, help us treasure the signs of God's presence in our lives.

ANGELUS, ROME, JANUARY 16, 2022



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- How has God blessed me throughout my life?
- How is God blessing me today?

Using Our Gifts for God's Work

Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

Paul is appealing to the hearts of the people to live in harmony with one another and to work together for the common good. Paul reminds the church at Corinth that they are no longer members of the material world, but members of the spiritual community of God. Paul's challenge was getting the Christian community to think and act in light of their spiritual reality.

Conflict and division are present in the Church today. Many in the Church find it difficult to remain focused on the works of God in the midst of an increasingly secularized world. We need to remember that we are members of the spiritual community of God. In this community we find equality, unity, mutual love, and peace. Our life with God must



be reflected in the way we think and act in the world for the common good of all people. The work of God must be the work of Christians scattered throughout the world. No human gift is less than or greater than another. The Spirit works in

and through every gift to bring about love and unity in the world. All the works of the Church must reflect the compassion of Jesus, the humble servant of God. Every activity carried out by the people of God is activated by the Spirit to accomplish the will of God on Earth. All the gifts, services, and activities of the people of God must be used to build a civilization of love, peace, and compassion.

Ponder: What world am I living in at the moment?

Prayer: Lord, send your Spirit and empower me to use my gifts and talents for the common good of all people.

Practice: Today I will be an instrument of peace and reconciliation. †

Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From "An Examen for Married Couples" by Fr. Michael Champagne, CJC

What is an examen? An examen is the practice of prayerfully evaluating one's thoughts, words, and actions in the light of faith, giving thanks when the day goes well and asking for forgiveness and grace when we need to do better. About this valuable practice, Pope Francis says, "Before ending the day, stop a moment. What happened? Not in the newspapers, not in life: what happened in my heart? Was my heart attentive? Did it grow? Did it go through everything unaware? What happened in my heart?... There is the Holy Spirit. Learning to read what happened during the day in the book of our heart. Do it: it will take just two minutes, but it will do you good, I assure you."

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God of abundance,
inspire those with more
to share with those who
have less and do so
with a grateful, joyful
heart. We pray in Jesus'
name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

January 20–25

Monday, Weekday:
Heb 5:1–10 / Mk 2:18–22


Tuesday, St. Agnes:
Heb 6:10–20 / Mk 2:23–28

Wednesday, Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children:
Heb 7:1–3, 15–17 / Mk 3:1–6

Thursday, Weekday:
Heb 7:25—8:6 / Mk 3:7–12

Friday, St. Francis de Sales:
Heb 8:6–13 / Mk 3:13–19

Saturday, Conversion of St. Paul:
Acts 22:3–16 or Acts 9:1–22 /
Mk 16:15–18

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