

**Homily for II (2) Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C, 16-01-2022 by Fr. Lubem Robert Waya, osj.**

**First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5**

**Psalm: Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11**

**Gospel: John 2:1-11**

### **HAVE YOU RUN OUT OF WINE?**

Of all human relationships, marriage is the most profound and intimate expressive in the global human culture. Hence, wherever there are humans, marriage exists. This is precisely because it is the foundational unit of every human society. Little wonder then that family, which begins with marriage, is rightly qualified as the nucleus of the human society and the domestic Church. It is therefore the first and the most basic human vocation and the oldest human institution which remains crucial to our continued existence on earth. Even in the bible, the relationship between God and His chosen people Israel is described as a marriage to show this depth. Isaiah frankly captures this today too in our first reading in the marriage imagery between God and Israel which he describes as being just like every other marriage, with its ups and downs. Israel remained unfaithful to her God and suffered the consequences of her unfaithfulness, while God remained faithful until He eventually won her back to Himself. Like Israel, He never abandons us too. This is to prove to us that true love does not give up on the other. But, do you love your spouse like this? This love is what Christ teaches us today in the gospel in the third episode of His manifestation that completes the trilogy which began with the Epiphany followed by His baptism. Today's event however is at a marriage feast at Cana.

The event at Cana today is qualified as the first of Christ's signs, and as another epiphany because it is the first time Jesus would manifest His divinity to His disciples, turning water into wine. Many questions come to mind here. Why did this take place at a wedding feast? Why was Mary the one who discovered that the wine had finished and decided to do something? Why was it wine that ran out? What is the significance of Jesus' response to His mother that His hour had not yet come? All of these questions and more have deep theological significances that serve a didactic purpose for us especially as all relate to Christ who today comes to the very roots of human culture, that is, marriage. His presence at the wedding feast shows that God approves of marriage between a man and a woman, and seeks to be in an intimate relationship with us in a way that is beyond just the physical. That is why marriage which is the union between a man and a woman as husband and wife is sacramental and symbolizes the relationship between God and humanity. And whenever we allow Christ to take His rightful place in our marriages and families as the true bridegroom and head, He does not only remain present to us in the inevitable good and the bad times, but His presence also ensures that we triumph over those bad moments. However, there is no Christian that is complete without a mother, which we have in our Blessed Mother Mary. Why? Because she is the one who discovers what is lacking in our lives, in our marriages and families to make them complete. When we turn to her, she intercedes for us by taking our cares and concerns to her Son Jesus who can never turn down His mother's request. If you would want to know what is lacking in your life, vocation, marriage, family, business, turn to our mother Mary and seek her intercession. She not only makes you discover the lack but she would also fix it for you through her Son Jesus. For she cannot turn a blind eye to us. That is why we must pray our rosaries every day. Have you prayed your rosary today?

For the Hebrews at the time, marriages were not only one of the greatest celebrations but the presence of wine at a marriage completed its festiveness. This is because wine for them symbolized joy and gladness as affirmed also in psalm 104:15 that says God has created wine to cheer man's heart. So, to run out of wine at a joyous occasion like marriage is not only embarrassing but it also means that there was no more joy and gladness at the marriage feast. Sometimes in our lives, careers/businesses, vocations/ministries, marriages and families, we no longer find that gladness and happiness. We may even begin to question the very essence of what we are doing and why we are where we are. Are you at this point in your life? Such unavoidable moments can lead one to give up on life, on their marriage, or abandon their calling, in order to seek gladness and happiness elsewhere. But do not forget that the God who has called each one of us to be where we are does so for a purpose, and He knows we are there. Just hang in there...He is only waiting for you to invite Him into your life, your marriage, your family, your vocation, your career/business and profession, your situation, and He would restore the 'finished wine' which is the lost gladness and happiness you deserve. What is stopping you from inviting Him today? Waste no time, invite Him today and He will grant you restoration. Our true happiness in life only comes from obeying the Law of the Lord which gives life and the fullness of gladness as shown today. And the greatest form of this Law is Love. If we love like Him, then we would have fulfilled the whole Law. May we be docile in obeying His Law so that He may accept our worship and grant us restoration especially in this new year 2022, turning our nothingness into somethingness. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.