

The Second Sunday of Ordinary Time Cycle C 2022

The first reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah at a time when God allowed the people to return from exile and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. Once more God had rescued his people as he had promised. However, freed from exile, they failed to live up to their potential and thus realize the promises God made to them. It is so easy in our culture where wealth and loose moral standards provide lots of temptation, to fall into sin and to lose our heavenly rewards.

St Paul reminds us that we are bound together by the Holy Spirit although we may not have the same spiritual gifts. The gifts mentioned were wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, and discernment of spirits, miracles, prophecy, and tongues and interpretation of tongues. Paul emphasized there is unity in the church through the Holy Spirit, although the working of the Spirit is manifested in various ways.

Each of us has the Holy Spirit and presumably a special charism (a gift of the Holy spirit). It is our duty to discover our charism and develop it for the building up of the church.

In John's gospel Jesus performed seven signs which were all miracles but John refers to them as signs because they are more than just miracles: they reveal who Jesus really is: the Son of God who is the presence of God among us. One much either accept or reject Jesus at the moments of these signs. At the end of this sign we are told, " His disciples begin to believe in him".

Symbolically, Jesus is the restorer of joy by the creation of an abundance of wine, which points to him as the savior. Do you need an external miracle to deepen your faith or would the conversion of your hardened heart suffice.

Finally if we only had John's Gospel, we would never know the name of Jesus' mother? The two references by Jesus to his mother both say "Woman" which means "Eve". Theologically, in John's gospel Mary is the new Eve who is obedient and trusting God, as opposed to the first "Eve" who was disobedient along with Adam.

The amazing part of the story is that that neither the groom nor the bride nor of any of the other guests realized a possible great embarrassment that had been avoided because of the alertness and intervention of Mary on their behalf with her Son, Jesus. It is good to have Mary in your home at all times to remove disasters and avoid tragedies before they occur.

How do you do that? Pray the rosary!