

## HOMILY 2<sup>ND</sup> SUN OT YRC 2019

God has created a tremendous universe to live in. In our universe we experience a truly divine harmony. When everything operates according to the laws of nature that God created nothing is wasted. Things live and grow and flourish and then die and decay and become something that supports new life. It is the circle of life. Human beings are the only creatures in God's creation that he made in his own image and likeness. We have an immortal soul. We have free will and can choose to live according to the order created by God. We have the capacity to love as God loves and can love one another and treat all of God's creation with love and respect. That is what God created us to do. We also have the capacity to upset the order created by God. We can choose not to follow God's hopes and desires for our lives and we are also free not to love. We are the only ones among God's creation that have the capacity to destroy the divine harmony created by God.

Today's Gospel reading is the wedding feast of Cana where Jesus turns water into wine. This is the first of the miracles that Jesus performed. I think this reading gives us some insight as to how God works with us in the world. Mary identifies the problem and brings it to Jesus. "They have no wine." Jesus does not tell her what he is going to do, but Mary trusts Jesus. She tells the people: "Do whatever he tells you." Good advice, and that is exactly what they do. Jesus tells them to fill the six stone jars with water and that is what they do. Jesus then turns the water into wine. That is the miracle.

A miracle is defined as something that defies the laws of nature. Jesus performed miracles as a sign to the people of who he is. It wasn't so much about the wine, it was about the sign. Notice how Jesus performed the miracle. He did it through the people who were there. They had to offer him what they had, the 6 jars of water. Then Jesus turned the water into wine.

When you think about it he did not totally defy the laws of nature. Turning water into wine is a natural process that takes place in vineyards all over the world. He just sort of short circuited the process in a way that did not upset the divine harmony we experience.

Sometimes we pray for miracles and when we do not get them we think God does not hear us and there is no point in praying. Jesus does not perform miracles in our lives often and generally when he does he performs them in a way that does not upset the divine harmony of our universe, and I am glad of that because I like the divine harmony, the predictability in our universe. If Jesus was constantly performing miracles in our lives everything would be random. Your miracle could be my problem. I think Jesus performs miracles today to remind us that he is present in our lives. God wants to work with us so that we can learn the lessons we need to learn in this world, so that we can find meaning in our lives. We cannot short circuit the process. First of all we need to bring our hopes, our dreams our concerns to Jesus, just like Mary did in the Gospel. Notice that Mary did not tell Jesus what to do. She trusted him and said: "Do whatever he tells you." We have to do the same thing. Stay close to him in prayer and let it unfold. And Jesus works through our human nature, according to the divine harmony he created. Just like the miracle in the Gospel, we have to bring to him what he have. We have to do our part. Then he will work with us and it may be in a way that we do not expect. I doubt many of the people that were there in Cana expected him to turn water into wine, but that is what happened. God always hears our prayers and will always help us but we have to stay close to him in prayer. We have to be open to the help and guidance that he gives us and be willing to do whatever he tells you. And this process may take a while, but we need to be patient. Jesus can change our past and our present into a different future. With Jesus nothing is wasted. We can find meaning. Lord, give us the grace to see what we have to do and the strength to do it.