

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 2019

My beloved brothers and sisters, we have just heard the last words of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Gospels; but they say everything: “Do whatever He tells you!” This was the message of all of the Marian Apparitions throughout the two-thousand year history of the Church: “Do what He tells you!” She doesn’t often speak in the Sacred Scriptures; yet, whenever she does, her words reflect the very Wisdom of God. And when we do as she tells us to do, the results are astounding and miraculous.

Mary and the apostles have been invited to Cana in Galilee for a wedding. It was the most important day in the life of a young man and a young woman. Even for the poor, the Wedding celebration would last for days. They were treated like Kings and Queens, because this was the one blessing that was not forfeit due to the sin of Adam and Eve. One of the most important elements of the feast, was wine, not only because it was the only safe thing to drink because of the alcohol, but also because it lightened their hearts and was a sign of God’s blessings and great celebration, so much so, that it was offered as a libation offering to God in the Temple! To run out of wine, would have exposed this newly-wed couple to great humiliation bringing great dishonor to them and their families. Mary sees, no doubt, because she was busy with the other women, serving and preparing the many meals of the Wedding Feast. It is her exquisite compassion for them that brings this seemingly simple problem to Jesus, and brought about the incredible miracle that was His very first public miracle. So what is the Gospel teaching us?

First, it is the compassion of Mary, that sees what must be done, and implores her Son Jesus to act on their behalf. One of her great titles is Mother of Mercy. She looks at our human condition, and always intercedes for us, poor, banished children of Eve. She still implores the mercy of her Son Jesus for us, and He always listens to her, because He loves her so much, and has entrusted the whole realm of Mercy into her Heart and Hands. That is why we implore her help and intercession: Jesus always listens to His mother’s plea on our behalf! This is reflected in one of my favorite prayers: the Memorare: “Remember Oh most Gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your

protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was ever left unaided...”

Secondly, she has asked us to pray the Rosary every day, as the most powerful weapon in the Universe against the powers of evil. Why? Because it brings us to live in the mysteries of our salvation at her knees, like a little child, wherein she teaches us about the infinite mercy and love of our God! So powerful is this prayer, that it once saved all of Christendom at Laponio in Italy, when Islam was threatening to destroy all of Christianity. She has told us that it will crush the head of Satan in our time and through it, God will act to save us, once again. She has also promised that she will lead us from “height to height in holiness of life!” She has told us that the daily Rosary is a sign of our predestination to heaven. Why, because she is God’s Mother, and Jesus made her our Mother too, as His last act on earth before He died!

Finally, when we live in her heart, we live in the Heart of Jesus, because the two Hearts of Jesus and Mary cannot be separated- it was from Her, that the Son of God took human flesh. God has given her the highest honor in the Universe: her title as Mother of God- Theotokos. He will always listen to her plea for her beloved children!