

2nd Sunday OT – John 2:1-11

The Second Sunday of Ordinary Time is the Wedding Feast at Cana. For Marianists this is our *signature gospel passage*, “Do whatever He tells you.”

If we look to the beginning of the gospel story, we are reminded that it was ***Mary who set the work of Jesus into action***. What led her to invite him to take action that day, to respond to the need at hand? Perhaps she recognized a change in Jesus, a new sense of purpose. While Jesus might have protested, “My hour has not yet come,” this was not what Mary thought.

Mary models for us a way in which we reflect God’s presence and glory: by encouraging, inviting, nurturing others to use the gifts they have received, gifts given for the good of all and the glory of God. Through bringing words of encouragement and hope to those whose voices are not yet heard, or to those who think their hour hasn’t or won’t come, we contribute to an awareness of God’s presence in the world. We can reveal God’s glory by reminding ourselves and others that ***the nurturing moms*** in our lives are usually right.

As Marianists we could almost say ***“Do whatever she tells you.”*** This section was taken from Jane E. Regan, a contributing author to *Catholic Women Preach*. Parallel to Jane’s “the nurturing moms in our lives,” Fr. Brendan McGuire writes, “This miracle is a sign of God operating in our lives, transforming the ordinary into the extraordinary. We are encouraged to bring our ordinary water—our simple, everyday selves—to Jesus, trusting that he can turn them into wine—something better, richer, and more joyful. It reminds us that God’s gifts are not just sufficient, they are lavish, filling our lives with joy and serving as a testament to his glory.” And he quotes Mother Teresa, “We are called to do the ordinary with faithfulness and it is God who makes it extraordinary.”

What is Jesus telling us to do? What is Mary telling us to do? Simply this, form our self and others in 1) ***faith***, 2) be ***Marian***, 3) witness to ***a discipleship of equals***, 4) ***develop community***, 5) send people on ***mission***, and 6) promote ***peace, justice, and integrity of creation and service***. These are called “The Six Characteristics of Marianist Parish Ministry.” Here at Gov Island Chapel, we are already practicing most of these characteristics.

However, no. 5) ***“Sending people on mission,”*** is unique here at Gov Island, but important as grandparents. We have a unique role as spiritual examples and even as spiritual directors in our families, especially to our grandchildren,

simply because of our unique relationship. What would Mary or Jesus ask of us to do? Anything that deepens our love for one another is always a good starting point. Otherwise, just our example in how we live our faith.

As the headwaiter marvels to the bridegroom, "You have kept the good wine until now." Jesus doesn't just restore the lost situation; he makes it better than it ever was. God does that to us too. He keeps the best till the last. When you die you will see something infinitely more beautiful than you ever saw before, something that no one can put into words, something Saint Paul describes in these words: *"What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him."*

I realize now it is only in the twilight time of our lives that we have the wisdom and hindsight to not only reflect on our lives but also to encourage others close to us in our family and friends to move them forward, beyond the difficult and even negative times. We may never know why those we love were difficult, but time not only heals all but for some it also reveals the why. Here is a good simple example of my own personal experience, my Dad. I realize now after all these years he was suffering from PTSD, a WWII veteran, a disorder that was not recognized then. I am sure the now the war with the Japanese that he fought was worse compared to the wars fought now, even in Pakistan.

But I could also pass that information on to my nephew, Tim, my Brother Dave's only child. David died and was buried this last Thursday. He was in the Marines. He was a good man but lost the battle against alcohol, and his son Tim was inconsolable. I guess one could say that my brothers and I also vicariously fought PTSD, but some did not survive. I am telling you this, because Saint Paul short but powerful quote has helped me to be ***that nurturing mom***. To do whatever she tells me, even in difficult times. "We are called to do the ordinary with faithfulness and it is God who makes it extraordinary."

I told my nephew Tim that he is the proof my brother David was even a great Dad, because you stuck with him to the end, even when it didn't end the way we all hoped. "You," I told him, "are extraordinary."