

2019.01.20 Homily by Fr. Gabor Sunday2-C6

Recently we watched a DVD video about Mary and her importance to our lives and what jumped out to me from this film was that she is a powerful intercessor. Since then this image of Mary has come back to me several times.

Here we read today a good example of what a powerful intercessor she is in the life of a married couple. This couple at the wedding at Cana run out of wine and Mary immediately notices that. Although she is only a guest she wants to do something about it. This reminds me of her eagerness to help whenever she can, and that she even helps us in very practical ways just to make us happy, after all she is asking for more wine for the couple's celebration, but realising that she can't do anything, she turns to her son, Jesus.

It is so easy to forget about Mary's eagerness to help us and her powerful intercessory role. We may not even be aware of this. So this Gospel reading is a good reminder to turn to Mary always and ask for her intercession, because she always knows the best way of obtaining what we really need; so this time she speaks to her Son on behalf of the couple even without the couple asking her.

Jesus' responds with a miracle, through which he sends out a message: by turning the water into wine Jesus points towards his desire to make us happy, but His plan for our happiness is only symbolised by this miracle. When Jesus saw the happiness of that couple at Cana it evoked in him His desire and the Father's desire to be one with us in Their loving covenant with us; humanity and Divinity joined together in an everlasting joy and peace. Water symbolises human nature and wine symbolises the divine nature. In Jesus the two are united in a perfect communion and His desire is that we experience this same communion of humanity and divinity. This is expressed also in a short prayer of the priest which people never hear. When he fills the chalice with wine and then puts a drop of water into it He quietly says: 'By the mystery of this **water and wine** may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share our humanity.' This desire of God to be one with humanity, which was lost in the Garden of Eden, is also expressed in the first reading where Isaiah says: 'Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you.' So Jesus' miracle reminds us of how

eager God is to be reunited with His children whom He lost at the time of Adam and Eve.

When you marry you promise to share your life with each other for better for worse, in every circumstances; even when it hurts. When God wants to be united with us, His children it means that he wants to share His life with us, the Holy Spirit, and He makes our happiness His first priority. But for us to be happy we also have to put everything into our covenant with God our Father, and make Him as our first priority, because He has already put everything into it when Jesus died for us on the cross.

Mary gives us a simple advice on what we can do to bring joy back into our marriages and into our covenant with God. She says 'do whatever he tells you', namely Jesus, and although these are Mary's last words in the New Testament, this is her most important message for us, his children. 'Do whatever He tells you.'