

2nd Sunday "C" 2010

I. It seems something always goes wrong at weddings. A bride arrives without her veil while the nervous groom waits in panic. Tuxedos that don't fit, bouquets that fall apart, flower girls that throw-up. At Cana something went terribly wrong; something unthinkable-the wine that was supposed to flow freely, stopped. The asks went dry, the bottles empty and the family is embarrassed and disgraced. "They have no wine" she tells him, and ignoring his protest, she instructs the waiters to "do whatever he tells you". At that point, water is changed to wine-gallons upon gallons of it and a premium vintage at that!

II. Fr. Raymond Brown, the biblical scholar who spent a lifetime studying John's gospel, says that in the early chapters of this gospel there's a recurring theme that Jesus replaces the old with the new. In this story He replaces the old ritual of cleansing with something new. The key to the miracle is the six stone water jars. The water that Jesus changed was the wash-water, kept at the door of every Jewish home. Upon entering guests were obliged to wash their hands and feet so they could be ritually "clean" to join the household at table. St. John calls his gospel the "Book of Signs". So what Jesus did at Cana was to change the 'wash-water' of the Old Law into the new wine of the Eucharist. To touch Christ is to be cleansed and healed, even of sin. And in the Eucharist we touch Christ physically.

III. Jesus is more than a wedding guest in John's

gospel; he is the bridegroom, sent by God, to woo and wed a new bride-that's us, His Church. The 'nuptials' were held at the "Hour" when was lifted up on the Cross, drawing all things to himself. This wedding at Cana is merely a shadow of the joy that waits us in His Kingdom which we anticipate whenever we lift the wedding cup of His Blood to our lips. It is at moments like that Isaiah tells us when God calls to each of our souls "My Beloved", "My Espoused"