

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, January 19, 2025
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle C

A boy from a religious family was interviewed by a TV host. The host asked the boy if he attended Sunday school or catechism class. When the boy said he did, the host inquired, “What are you learning in your catechism class?” “Last week,” the boy replied, “our lesson was about when Jesus went to a wedding and turned water into wine.” The host said, “What did you learn from that story?” After gathering his thoughts for a few seconds, the boy answered, “If you’re going to have a wedding, make sure you invite Jesus... You will not run out of wine.”

Today’s gospel story tells us that wine run out during a wedding feast at Cana. This was a serious issue or problem for the Jews. Why? Because to the Jewish people wine symbolized joy. The Jewish rabbis had a saying, “*Without wine there is no joy.*” At that wedding their *joy* had run out! “*They have no more wine.*”

Many of us are experiencing “a running out of wine” in the different aspects of our lives. The excitement and thrill, the interest and enthusiasm, the happiness and joy, the sense of meaning and fulfillment – suddenly they have run out, they are all gone. Our commitments to some good things wavers. In a deeper sense, our wine runs out when our faith, hope, and love run out.

Today’s gospel is telling us how much the Lord Jesus wants to enter in our lives.

Jesus enters... and he not only enters, but enters with the power to transform.

He comes with the message that even though we have had pain, growth and strength can result from that. Even though we have had disappointment and failure, meaning and fulfillment can be discovered from that. Jesus can turn water into wine for us. Yes, the Lord Jesus can perform that miracle for us, but he needs, he demands, our participation and cooperation. Yes, he can transform the loss, the boredom, the pain, and the betrayal that we experience... but he wants us to present to him our “empty jars” and do whatever he tells us. Yes, he can restore the faith that once strengthened us, the hope that once sustained us, the love that once embraced us...but he wants us to present our empty selves and fill them with his grace.

Jesus can perform miracles, he can transform our lives, but we have first to invite him into our lives, and we have to do our share in making his miracle happen. Whatever kind of wine that is running out in our life, let us start by inviting our Lord Jesus to come into our life, to make a miracle like he did at Cana. Wherever Jesus goes and whenever he comes into our lives, it is like water turning into wine. With Christ, the best is not only saved for last, but, more importantly, the best lasts.

Mary believed... Mary trusted... Mary knew that she could count on Jesus... and so can we. Indeed, when we allow Jesus to get involved, there will come a change into our lives which will be like turning water into wine.

The best is yet to come!