

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
January 16, 2022
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 62:1-5 † 1Corinthians 12:4-11 † John 2:1-11



Reflection by: Sister Honora Werner, OP

So many themes in this little Johannine story! The line just before this story tells us that this event takes place on the third day. The day of his resurrection! The wedding banquet reminds Jewish hearers of the metaphor for the coming of the Messiah. The great quantities of wine remind them of the fullness of the banquet—the final days. Jesus calls Mary, “Woman,” not Mother. That is Eve’s name and represents all of humanity. Mary says sadly, “They have no wine.” They abide in joylessness. He responds, “My hour has not yet come.” In John, his hour refers to his death. All these themes emerge from the story of the wedding at Cana. Good for Bible studies. But what’s the message for us today?

When we are invited to a wedding, a major concern is the gift to help the couple mark this important day. Both Isaiah and John tell us of weddings: God rejoicing over His people soon to be returned to their homeland and, of course, the wedding at Cana. Paul is the one who focuses on gifts. The Spirit, the perfect manager of gifts (even without a registry!), showers gifts upon us. Each receives a different gift, but each gift is for the good of the community. So, the death and resurrection of Jesus, the great heavenly banquet, the emptiness of people without the working of the Spirit—all these are real and important. But today, as we enter Ordinary Time and its focus on discipleship, we need to consider our gifts and how we will use them for the common good. When we ponder this responsibility, we need only listen to Mary as she counsels us, “Do whatever He tells you!” Then the heavenly wedding feast’s joy will rejoice the hearts of all.