

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today's reading from St. John's Gospel is, of course, the Wedding Feast at Cana.

This Gospel reading completes what might be called a Trifecta ... or perhaps a Hat Trick ... of Theophanies of Christ over the past several weeks.

On the Epiphany, Christ is revealed to the nations and recognized as King, God, and Sacrifice by the three Magi.

On the Octave of Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord, Christ is revealed to be the Son of God and co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit, when He came out of the waters of the Jordan.

And today, at the request of His Blessed Mother, Christ performs the first of His Miracles by changing water into wine.

If I might share a couple of brief reflections on this reading.

In the story about the Wedding at Cana, St. John goes into some detail about who was there. Yet, there is never a mention of just who are the bride and groom.

In a mystical sense then, one can posit that the Groom is Christ and the Bride is His fledgling Church.

The wine, then, can be seen in several ways.

(1) It is the new wine of the New Covenant.

(2) It is a foreshadowing of the Last Supper, and the Eucharistic wine which is the Blood of Christ.

(3) And perhaps more practical for us in our own time, it is a sign for us that when we run out of options or resources, that we must turn to Our Lord and Our Lady and ask for help.

Too often in the last several decades, our churches and our Church has been run like a business. We have finance and planning commissions, and all sorts of options for people to stand in for priests. And all of this done without much commitment on anyone's part.

Yet we are not a business. The coin of our realm is not bookkeepers and financial risk planners.

Rather, our stock-in-trade rests in something no business can provide anyone. The Church must get back to its roots of prayer ... and miracles.

Some of the most well-run parishes and dioceses are the most dismal of places. People are miserable because the love and mercy of God have been traded for policies and planning of men.

Perhaps no one has noticed, but businesses fail ... good businesses fail. But the Church is not a business, no matter how many accountants are hired and fired. The Church, rather, has the assurance of the very words of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, that 'the gates of hell will not prevail against Her.'

Yet God has no shortage of Miracles in store for us, if we would only heed Our Lady's words and 'do whatever Christ tells us.'

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray for a closer union with Christ through this Most Blessed Sacrament. May we 'do whatever He tells us' ... and expect the miracles that flow from abiding in the Will of God and union with the Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.