

## ~From the Administrator~

January 17, 2010

Dear Parish Family,

This week on Tuesday was the Mass of Christian Burial for Mary Pung. She is survived by her 8 children, 19 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren. Please remember to pray for Mary's repose and the consolation of her family.

*Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.*

On Thursday, as part of Vocations Awareness Week, three novices from the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma visited our school. The sisters attended Mass, spoke in classrooms, had lunch, and enjoyed recreation time on the playground with our students at St. Joseph the Worker School. The three sisters were: Sr. Mary Noelle, Sr. Stella Maris, and Sr. Mary Benedicta.

The beautiful vestments that were used for the Christmas Masses were loaned to our parish from the Sisters of Mercy. Please pray for the sisters and for the good work they do in Alma, in the U.S., and around the globe.

Just last week I ordered special communion bread from the Benedictine Sisters in Clyde, Missouri that contains only 0.01% wheat gluten. This bread is approved by the US bishop's conference for use in the Mass; and is intended for individuals with gluten intolerance or celiac disease. Please contact me prior to Mass to identify yourself and for further instructions on receiving Holy Communion using this bread.

Soon I would like to begin showing a video series titled "Lord, Have Mercy: The Healing Power of Confession" at 9:00 am on Tuesdays and Fridays. The video features Dr. Scott Hahn, an internationally known theologian whom you may recognize from EWTN. The schedule can be found in a second bulletin insert this week, or in the gathering area.

Also, in the gathering area, the literature stand is now pulled away from the wall exposing two sides. Please help yourself to the reading material found there. Also, Saint Philomena has been brought up from the basement and is currently in the gathering area with some literature and prayer materials.

Please pray for the people in Haiti who were affected by the earthquake. A friend of mine who is from Haiti is building an orphanage. His website is: [www.mwts.org](http://www.mwts.org). Also, Catholic Relief Services has information on helping the people of Haiti at: [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org).

Let's continue praying for each other God bless you!

*Fr. David*



## The Wedding Feast at Cana — A Reflection by Father Tommy Lane

WE WOULD CONSIDER IT A GREAT PRIVILEGE and honor for the couple in Cana and all their guests that Jesus was present at their wedding and performed his first miracle at their wedding (John 2:1-11). It was another epiphany or manifestation of Jesus following on the two previous epiphanies, the star guiding the Magi to Bethlehem, and the Father speaking from heaven at Jesus' baptism and the Spirit descending on Jesus. We enjoy an even greater privilege here today when Jesus comes to us in the form of bread and wine and offers us his body and blood to spiritually nourish us.

Mary said to Jesus, "They have no wine." (John 2:3) In the Old Testament wine is sometimes a symbol of God's blessing. Through the prophet Hosea God complained that Israel had abandoned him and had gone after false gods, and therefore he would deprive Israel of wine,

Since she has not known that it was I who gave her the grain, the wine, and the oil, and her abundance of silver, and of gold, which they used for Baal. Therefore I will take back my grain in its time, and my wine in its season..." (Hosea 2:10-11)

Later Hosea says once again,

Rejoice not, O Israel, exult not like the nations! For you have been unfaithful to your God... Threshing floor and wine press shall not nourish them, the new wine shall fail them." (9:1-2)

Then the prophet Joel, looking forward to the end of time, predicts a glorious future, which we can see in Jesus, and which I would like to link also to the miracle at Cana,

And then, on that day, the mountains shall drip new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk... (Joel 3 :18)

So in the Old Testament God declared that when the people abandoned him they would be deprived of wine and when Jesus would come the mountains would drip with new wine. Now that Jesus has come the mountains are, so to speak, dripping new wine. Jesus provides a superabundance of wine, wine of the best type, new wine.

Not only is Jesus present at the wedding in Cana blessing it with his presence, but when Jesus became one of us it was like a wedding, the wedding of heaven to earth, the wedding of God to humanity. This idea is evident in the first reading today,

No more shall men call you "Forsaken," or your land "Desolate," But you shall be called "My Delight," and your land "Espoused."

For the Lord delights in you, and makes your land his spouse.

As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you.

(Isaiah 62:4-5)

When people objected because Jesus' disciples did not fast while the disciples of John and the Pharisees did fast, Jesus replied,

Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast." (Mark 2:19)

So when Jesus became incarnate, became flesh, heaven was wedded to earth, God was wedded to us, and Jesus is the bridegroom.

John tells us the changing of water into wine was the first of the miracles performed by Jesus (John 1:11). Jesus' first miracle was showing that God was now executing a New Covenant since the Old Covenant had been broken by

the Israelites time after time. Jesus was showing that the Old Testament prophecy about flowing wine was now fulfilled in him, and in him God is wedded to us.

A covenant is not just a contract. A covenant is more than a contract because a covenant is entering into a new family relationship. In the Old Testament God told Moses that he would be their God and they would be his people (Ex 6:7). When Jesus died on the cross he formed the New Covenant to form a new family in God which would include all peoples and Jesus uses the word "covenant" only once in his entire ministry, during the Last Supper, "this is the blood of the covenant which will be shed..." (Matt 26:28; Mark 14:24; see Luke 22:20). At Cana water was changed into wine; every time we come here to celebrate the Eucharist wine is changed into the blood of Jesus because God has formed a New Covenant with us. We would consider it a privilege to have been at Cana for the miracle but we are present here for a far greater miracle, a miracle which reminds us that we are the people of God's New Covenant formed by Jesus shedding his blood for us.

Who was present with Jesus at Cana pleading that he would change the water into wine? It was his mother, Mary. Just as Mary interceded on behalf of that couple in difficulty in Cana she continues to intercede for us, when we are in need so we can confidently turn to her in our difficulties. In her role as intercessor on behalf of us, the people of the New Covenant formed in the blood of her Son, she is acting as our Queen. Who was the queen in the Old Testament? It was not the king's wife but his mother. An example is,

Then Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him for Adonijah, and the king stood up to meet her and paid her homage.

Then he sat down upon his throne,

and a throne was provided for the king's mother, who sat at his right.

"There is one small favor I would ask of you," she said.

"Do not refuse me."

"Ask it, my mother," the king said to her, "for I will not refuse you."

(1 Kings 2:19-20)

You might say if Mary is acting here as our Queen does that mean that Jesus is our King? Jesus is the Son of David and possesses the throne of David as the angel Gabriel said to Mary,

He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father..." (Luke 1:32)

But that throne is not the one that King David occupied in the Old Testament. Now Jesus' throne is at the right hand of the Father in heaven. Mary interceded at Cana like an Israelite queen and she continues to intercede for us, the people of the New Covenant formed in the blood of her Son, because she is now the Queen of heaven and earth so let us turn to her in our needs.

I like to see Jesus' miracle at Cana as the fulfillment of the prophecy of the mountains dripping with wine. In Jesus God is wedded to us, we are "espoused." To form this New Covenant Jesus shed his blood for us and is now present to us in the Eucharist, and his mother Mary continues to intercede for us as our Queen.

*Mary, Queen of heaven and earth, pray for us.*