

In both of today's readings, we hear different people questioning God's plan.

In the First Reading, the Israelites, who have just seen a miracle in the slaying of the firstborn of Egypt, questioning why Moses has led them into the desert.

In the Gospel, the Pharisees ask Jesus for a sign. Not that he hasn't been providing signs all along.

The definition of a Sacrament is that it is an "outward sign of inward grace, instituted by Christ for our sanctification."

Another way to look at it is that it is something completely natural – water, bread, wine, oil – that is used to effect a supernatural end.

This is not to be confused with trying to use something supernatural to effect a natural end.

The first is a sacrament, the second borders on the magical.

*Then the LORD said ... "Why are you crying out to me?
... go forward.
... then I will receive glory ...*

The graces poured out on us in the Sacraments are intended to divinize us – to re-create us anew as adopted children of God.

On the other hand, God is not waiting around for us to lay out our game plan for Him to follow.

The key is to align our wills ... our desires ... with God's will. When we are completely surrendered to God's will with no hint of our own will ... we will have become Saints.

In the meantime, it is important that daily we rely on grace – the power of the Holy Spirit – to act in our lives more and more ... so that we can be the actions and words of Jesus Christ here on earth.