



Deacon Steve Szmuto's Reflection
The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 2: 1-5 Psalms 96: 1-3, 7-10
1 Corinthians 12: 4-11 John 2: 1-11

Today, we celebrate the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time began last week following the celebration of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The use of the word “*Ordinary*” Time often causes confusion. While it is true that we are no longer in the Christmas Season, and Lent is still some weeks away, the liturgies celebrated during this time are anything but ordinary. The readings in each Mass,

regardless of the season, reveal the divine truth of Christ and prepare us to celebrate the Eucharist – the real physical presence of the Lord, His Precious Body and Blood, in the bloodless sacrifice of the Mass. Thus, “*Ordinary*” is anything but ordinary; rather, the name arises because the weeks are numbered. It comes from the Latin word “*ordinalis*,” which refers to numbers that follow in a series (remember ordinal numbers from grammar school mathematics – cardinal numbers: something else entirely and nothing to do with the red hats) and imply a specific order or sequence. It reminds us that our life in the Church is ordered toward Christ. The Liturgical year follows a specific order as we watch in faith and hope for the eternal salvation of Christ.

Unlike most of this year’s Gospel readings, which are taken from Luke, today’s Gospel reading is the account of the Wedding Feast of Cana contained in John’s Gospel. It recounts the beginning of Christ’s public ministry: “*Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.*” It is the first moment of Jesus’ public ministry; equally significant, it is the acknowledgement of his divinity by the first and most perfect disciple – the Blessed Mother. She points out that the wedding party had run out of wine, something that would have caused great embarrassment to the bride, the bridegroom, and their families. Although Jesus at first appears to protest, telling Mary, “*My hour has not yet come,*” Mary responds not with an argument, but with simple faith. She spoke to the servers, and in the last words attributed to her in the Sacred Scriptures, said, “*Do whatever he tells you.*” Five words, but what profound advice do we hear from the woman who carried the Lord and Savior in her womb and, along with Joseph, raised Jesus to manhood! The volumes of Christian teachings and theology are summed up in these five simple words: “*Do whatever he tells you.*” It was a unique revelation of Jesus as the Son of God, but in a context or situation that too many might be “ordinary” circumstances.

During the weeks of Ordinary Time, interrupted by the Lent and Easter Seasons, the teachings and signs of Jesus unfold as his divinity is revealed. As we actively listen and participate in each liturgy, we are drawn more deeply into the mysteries of our faith, and find the light of Christ, shining the windows of our hearts and minds and souls. It banishes the darkness, chases away the shadows, sweeps away the gloom, and illuminates the face of God. We are at once fearful of the Father’s presence, yet drawn to His perfect love by the grace received from the Holy Spirit sent to us by Jesus Christ – eternally begotten Son of the Father – who became man in order to offer the perfect sacrifice for our redemption. As we will discover, there is nothing at all ordinary in Ordinary Time.

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