

Homily: 2nd Sunday: Cycle C: 2021: Is 62: 1-5; Ps 96; 1 Corth 12: 4-11; Jn 2:1-11

“Following Our Lady’s directive to do what Jesus tells us to do”

As we now move back into the “ordinary time” of the Church’s liturgical calendar, we are called to put the mysteries of Faith which we celebrated during the beautiful season of Advent and Christmas into practice in our “ordinary” life. Living it generously every day!

1. **Today we again ponder the great role of Mary in salvation history.** Just as she was the one who by saying **Yes** to God in the mystery of the Annunciation and gave the eternal Son of God His human nature and bought Him into our world at Christmas, today she is the one who asks Jesus in love to perform His first miracle - which begins the public dimension of Jesus’s work of Redeeming the human race from the power of satan, sin and death. Mary’s role is one of intercessor par excellence for the human race until the end of time. She is always associated with Jesus in a most intimate way, as the Second Vatican Council put it, *“By decree of God’s providence she was, here on earth, the noblest of all of His companions, and the humble servant of the Lord. In conceiving Christ, in bearing Him, in nursing Him, in presenting Him to the Father in the temple, in sharing in her Son’s passion as He was dying on the Cross, by her obedience, her faith, her hope and burning love, she cooperated, in a way that was quite unique, in the work of the Savior in restoring supernatural life to souls. She is therefore mother to us in the order of grace (**Lumen Gentium, 61-62**). Mary is the human who most fully participated in Christ’s redemptive act, of which we are all called to share in by our prayers, works of charity/penance, and most of all by daily bearing our cross in love for the ongoing conversion of our heart and for the sake of the salvation of others: esp. for hardened sinners on earth and for the souls in Purgatory. What a privilege it is to share in the mission of the Redeemer in company with our Lady!*
2. In today’s Gospel passage, Jesus mysteriously says to Mary, seemingly in protest, when asked by her to work a miracle for the newly married couple, *“Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.”* Is Jesus being disrespectful in calling her “woman” instead of mother? Well, the answer is no. There are some profoundly deep mysteries going on here. What is Christ’s

“**hour**”? It is spiritual reality of Jesus moving in a definitive way toward His passion, death and Resurrection - the time (hour) for beginning His public mission, given to Him by the Father, of redeeming the human race. **Cana is a rehearsal for Golgotha** (the hill of the Cross): that is why Christ in His human nature initially shrinks from it. Suffering is not pleasant, especially the immense suffering Jesus is going to take on for our Redemption (all of our sins and their awful effects). Why does Jesus call her “**woman**” instead of Mother? Again there is a deep meaning behind this. The other time in Scripture where the “woman” is addressed by God is in the beginning of the book of Genesis, namely the first woman: Eve. **Jesus by calling Mary “Woman” is in essence calling her the “New Eve” as He is the “New Adam”**; for the beginning of the Redemption of the human race by this public miracle at Cana is **the sign** that God is giving the human race **one final chance**, and **wants to create a new humanity** in the person of Jesus, with Mary’s special cooperation in this whole process. Mary is now going from being Jesus’s mother, strictly speaking, to becoming the universal spiritual mother of the human race - which is then completed on the Cross when Jesus entrusted the human race to her in the person of St. John the Evangelist: representing all of us human beings. Now in eternity Mary continues that mission.

3. Mary says to the waiters at the wedding and to us always, “***Do whatever He tells you.***” The ongoing message from our Lady to us humans is: Jesus alone is the one who can save you from sin, from the devil, and from death! “***Do whatever He tells you.***” This obedience of love is the narrow path that leads to salvation (which Mary exemplified in her own life). Yes, through **the teaching of our Catholic Faith** we are given the knowledge to follow Jesus in a definitive way. Jesus has shown us the path with the encouragement of Mary to enter into His “Hour” to be the Savior of us sinners. Now He gives us the grace, esp. thru the Sacraments, to follow Him on it, through the ongoing intercession of Our Blessed Mother for us sinners in this vale of tears. **Mary is truly the refuge of sinners for all eternity.** Always turn to Mary in love, to ask for her intercession: *that we become more like Jesus daily in all that we say, and think, and do.* God bless you.