

Excessive, Overflowing Divine Love
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time year C
John 2:1-11

The wedding feast at Cana: a *very joyous* celebration.

It is joyous because

- weddings are always moments of hopeful joy (= a new beginning)
- wine normally accentuates joy!

We discover at this reception that Jesus has nothing against wine!

In fact, he instantaneously created *180 gallons!* Sounds like a party to me!

The wedding feast at Cana is Jesus' first ministerial act
(according to the gospel of John).

One might expect involvement in something apparently more urgent,
like healings (as one might expect Jesus to "get to work" earlier,
and not "sit around the house" for 30 years...)

We are invited to discern the wisdom in such ways.

Jesus' ministerial choice is not one centered on efficiency.

Wisdom is always linked to love.

Jesus' ministerial choice is centered on love.

Two questions arise:

1. Why a wedding feast?
2. What exactly does Jesus do?

As we discover at the end of this incident,

Jesus discerned it to be a tremendous opportunity to reveal his glory.

What is the revelation of glory? What is "glory revealed"?

Glory revealed is excessive, overflowing divine love revealed.

In other words, glory revealed, in a sense, is God being Himself to excess.

What, in this incident, suggests

- the overflow of God's love
- the "overflow" of God, who is love?

The centerpiece is a miracle.

Jesus performs the miracle of transforming water into wine:

to guarantee enough wine, so that the celebration may continue.

Wine is a beverage of "superabundance",

not, strictly speaking, a beverage of necessity.

It is a beverage of festivity, of celebration.

The miracle is a *sign*, a sign of God's love, which, by nature, overflows.

Perhaps something *else*, however, is a revelation of glory...

When the gospel passage says that

“Jesus did *this* as the beginning of his signs... and so revealed his glory...”,

“this” includes everything that occurred, and includes the presence of Mary.

Perhaps God's love overflows in another way, *through Mary*.

Mary's presence is deliberately mentioned (v. 1); not simply a passing detail.

Every detail in scripture is, in fact, important;

and when the detail is a *person*...

Mary plays a very discreet, but important role in the miracle,

more important than one might think.

Mary intervenes.

Jesus responds bizarrely; in fact, mysteriously.

“Woman, how does your concern affect me?”

Is Jesus being disrespectful?

No: Jesus would betray his very self if he were.

Jesus receives Mary's intervention, but, knowing her heart, and trusting her,

invites her to welcome the mystery of his *hour*

- for which he has come.
- in the light of which he performs the miracle at Cana.

What is the “hour” of Jesus?

The “hour” of Jesus is the mystery of his Cross,

- whereby he gives himself completely in love
- whereby divine love truly overflows

Mary now becomes, not only his mother, but his “associate”, his companion

- on his journey to the Cross
- on the journey during which he opens heaven to those who wish
- on the journey during which divine love increasingly overflows

When Jesus says “woman” (whose use would get me more than a time-out)

he actually signifies this new role.

As Jesus' companion,

Mary says “Do whatever he tells you”, i.e. open yourself to

- that which he wishes to give to you.
- that which he wishes to accomplish through you.

And she helps us.

Mary is a manifestation of the overflow of divine love.
Like wine, she is, strictly speaking, not necessary.
As we know, there is only one mediator between God and humans.
Aaah: but Jesus goes beyond the necessary.
Because divine love, by nature, overflows, we have Mary.
Divine love is playful.
Divine love is creative.
Divine love, towards us, is merciful (...and gives us a mother).
Jesus joins his loved ones to his endeavors.
Mary becomes, in a new way, an instrument of/for divine love.
Mary communicates the overflow of divine love.

Jesus so reveals His glory.
Let us touch glory,
that is, let us receive superabundant, excessive, overflowing divine love.