



## *Reflection from Fr. Mike Roach*

This weekend, the reading from Paul's Letter to the Corinthians reminds us of the particular gifts given to each of us and how we can use those gifts together to build the Body of Christ. As Jesus begins His public life, our Gospel from John is about the changing of water into wine at the Wedding in Cana.

I think it's interesting how we begin Ordinary Time of the Church year with a miracle. Mary and Jesus were at a wedding celebration, and like any wedding, a lot of work (and stress) had gone into this event. When Mary realizes they are running out of wine, she approaches Jesus for help. He simply says, 'How does this concern of yours affect me?'. Mary simply ignored that and told the stewards to fill the jars with water. She just expected Jesus to perform this miracle, which Jesus did. It's a very common story---at any wedding celebration we have attended, a tremendous amount of work has gone into planning the celebration. In my firsthand experience, after almost two years of COVID, I have counselled and consoled engaged couples whose wedding plans had to be drastically changed or cancelled due to the guidelines of the health mandates of not being able to gather together.

But after tons of planning and changing dates, most of them were able to proceed with the celebrations. Not quite what they had planned--but they still were able to have beautiful gatherings with family and friends. This all happened because everyone came forward sharing their own gifts which helped the engaged couple carry out their wishes.

This is the message of today --a simple message that we need to reach out and care for one another as well as take seriously our own health and safety concerns. These past almost two years have been a difficult time for many folks. But hopefully we have learned to cherish one another and realize we have a responsibility to help each other in need.

This weekend, as we remember the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we are once again reminded to respect each other, build one another up and not let issues of race or color divide us. May we all share our own gifts to build this community of faith together.

As Mary told the stewards, do what He (Jesus) tells you.

*~ Peace,  
Fr. Mike*