

JANUARY 17, 2016



SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ISAIAH 62:1-5

PSALM 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-11

JOHN 2:1-11

REFLECTION

Jesus revealed his identity as the Son of God through one of his first miracles at Cana. When his mother, Mary, first asked him to help because they were out of wine, Jesus resisted, saying it wasn't his time to show who he was to the world. Mary persisted and Jesus stepped forward and had the servers fill the water jars with water. When the headwaiter tasted what was in the jars, it wasn't water, but the finest of wines. With this miracle, the disciples began to realize that Jesus was more than just a simple man. They began to believe in him.

We may not be able to change water into wine, but as the Second Reading from Corinthians reminds us, each of us has spiritual gifts that God has given us. Yes, each one of us has gifts! Some days it may not feel that way or we may feel our gift is of no consequence. We may look at others and think their gifts are so much better than ours. Yet, the Scripture today says that "the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit" (1 Corinthians 12:7). When we compare ourselves to others we play a dangerous game because our gifts were never meant to be exactly like someone else's. We sell ourselves short and we miss an opportunity to shine the light of Christ in the world. One person may be a great speaker and can change lives through their words. Another may not speak extremely well, but by their presence and support they bring healing to those around them. Together we make up the Body of Christ and each of our gifts is needed. Through our Baptism we have been called to be Christ's disciples. The Holy Spirit is with us strengthening us and gifting us with what we need to be just that: to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world today. When we choose to share our gifts for the benefit of all, we help reveal God's glory in the world.

ACTION

Take a look in the mirror. Instead of focusing on what you perceive to be flaws, look at yourself as God sees you: his beloved child for whom he sent Jesus who is now with you through the Holy Spirit! Think about what spiritual gift(s) you have to offer this week for some benefit. Don't give up if at first you can't think of anything. Go back and reread the Scripture reading if you are stuck. Once you come up with your gift(s), think of how you can share the gifts you have. Then go and be those gifts!



JOURNALING QUESTIONS



- What gifts do you have that are a benefit to the world?
- How can you share some of those gifts this week?