

## 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 2020 A

“**Come, share your master’s joy.**” I often use those words at the end of funeral homilies, as we mark the completion of a journey of faith in this life. But they would make a fitting Introduction to every Mass, for that is why we gather: to share the joy God promises and already begins to give us, even in the midst of our difficulties here with pandemics and politics and the sufferings of our world. For Matthew’s Gospel, the invitation to “Share Your Master’s Joy” always involves food, a feast where the *servants are treated as privileged guests* and valued coworkers - no longer slaves, but Friends, as Jesus says.

To share the Master’s joy in a feast is also the meaning of words we say just before Communion: **“Behold the Lamb of God – Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb.”** Those words are from the Book of Revelation, and the Supper they refer to is NOT primarily the Eucharist we receive now, but rather what the Eucharist itself points to in the future – the Wedding Feast of the Lamb in the joy of heaven. Remember that Jesus does His first miracle in John’s Gospel at the **Wedding Feast** in Cana, changing water into wine. That wedding was chosen not simply as an OCCASION for revealing His power to make all things new, but because the wedding portrays what He had come to do: **to establish a covenant of love that transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary.** That’s what MARRIAGE is, and that’s what our FAITH is – a covenant of love that transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary, so that even the routines of our lives become a relationship of love and service with God.

In the parable of the Talents, the servants do not all have the same skills or responsibilities or opportunities. The outcome for each is measured **by how well he used the different resources he was given.** Each of us, too, has been entrusted with unique gifts from God … not only our material possessions, but education, friendships, time, skills, different life experiences. All of these gifts are **God’s investment** in us, given in stewardship to produce an increase for God’s purposes and not merely our own – to strive to make life better for those around us. Every time we imitate the love of Jesus, **we make a**

*difference – we make the world at least a little bit more honest, more compassionate, more united, more loving, more holy, more Christ-like.*

As we come to the Eucharist, the Wedding Feast of the Lamb, it sometimes helps me to think of the *marriage vows spoken at a wedding to understand more fully the Communion we are about to deepen with the Lord*. As we receive Him, Jesus is saying to us, “I, Jesus Christ, take you to be a Member of My Body. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you, all the days of my Life.” And we say to Him, “I take You, Jesus, to be My Redeemer. I promise to be true to You, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love You and honor You, all the days of my life.” Here, we renew the **the covenant of love that transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary** – as bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ, so WE are changed by receiving Him in the Eucharist. And then, we are SENT to bring His love into the world, in whatever circumstances we live, to multiply the mercy we receive from the Lord, so that we might truly say: **“Master, you gave me mercy and love and joy – see, I have made more!”** Then, we will hear those words in a new light at every Mass, and God willing, at the end of our lives: **“Well done, good and faithful servant ... Come, share your Master’s joy.”**