

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

The Gospel of today's liturgy recounts the episode of the wedding at Cana, where, to the couple's delight, Jesus transformed water into wine. This is the way the account ends: "This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him" (Jn 2:11). We notice that the evangelist John does not speak of a miracle, that is, of a powerful and extraordinary deed that provokes wonder. He writes that a *sign* took place at Cana, a sign that sparked the faith of his disciples. We can, then, ask ourselves: What is a "sign" according to the Gospel?

It is a sign that gives a clue that reveals God's love, that does not call attention to the power of the action, but to the love that caused it. It teaches us something about God's love that is always near, tender and compassionate. Jesus' first sign took place when a couple faced a difficulty on the most important day of their lives. Right in the middle of the feast, an essential element for a feast, the wine, is missing and their joy risked being snuffed out due to the criticism and dissatisfaction of the guests. Imagine how a wedding feast could go ahead only with water. How terrible! What a bad impression the couple would make.

It is Our Lady who became aware of the problem and discretely brought it to Jesus' attention. And he intervened without fanfare, almost without making it obvious. Everything took place reservedly, everything took place "behind the scenes" – Jesus told the servants to fill the jars with water, then it became wine. This is how God acts, near to us and discretely. Jesus' disciples understood this: they saw that, thanks to him, the wedding banquet became even more beautiful. And they saw the way Jesus acted as well – the way he served hiddenly (this is Jesus – he helps us, he serves us hiddenly) in that moment so much so that it was the groom who was complimented for the good wine. Nobody was aware of it, only the servants. This is how the seed of faith began to develop within them – that is, they believed that God, God's love, was present in Jesus.

How beautiful it is to think that the first sign Jesus accomplished was not an extraordinary healing or something prodigious in the temple of Jerusalem, but an action that responded to a simple and concrete need of common people, a domestic gesture. Let us put it this way – a miracle done on tip toes, discretely, silently. Jesus is ready to help us, to lift us up. And then, if we are attentive to these "signs", we will be conquered by his love and we will become his disciples.

But there is another distinctive characteristic about the sign at Cana. Generally, the wine provided at the end of the feast was not as good – this is still done today. At that point, people don't distinguish as well if it is good wine or wine that's been diluted a little. Jesus, instead, acts in such a way that the feast ends with *better wine*. Symbolically, this tells us that God wants what is better for us, he wants us to be happy. He does not set limits and he does not ask us for incentives. There is no place for ulterior motives or demands placed on the couple. No, the joy Jesus brought to their hearts was complete and disinterested joy, a joy that was not diluted, no!

So, I want to suggest an exercise to you that would be very good for us. Today, let us try to rummage through our memories, looking for the *signs* the Lord has accomplished in my life. Let each of us say: in my life, what are the signs the Lord has accomplished? What are the hints of his presence, the signs he has done to show that he loves us? Let us think about that difficult moment in which God allowed me to experience his love... And let us ask ourselves: what are the discrete and loving signs through which he has allowed me to feel his tenderness? When have I felt the Lord nearer to me? When have I felt his tenderness and his compassion more? Every one of us has these moments in our personal history. Let us go in search of these signs, let us remember them. How have I discovered his nearness and how did it fill my heart with great joy? Let us relive the moments in which we have experienced his presence and Mary's intercession. May she, the Mother who is always attentive as at Cana, help us treasure the signs of God's presence in our lives.

Our Lady of Divine Providence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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III SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME



HOLY MASS

Saturday: 05:30pm English, Church.

Sunday: 09:00am English, Church.
10:30am Creole, Church.
12:30pm Spanish, Church.

Weekdays: 05:30pm English, Blue Chapel.

Fridays: 05:30pm Blue Chapel.
06:00pm Adoration Blessed
Sacrament and Rosary.

SCHEDULE OF SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: Contact one of the priests in person.

Confessions: Everyday before Mass or by appointment.

Anointing of the Sick: Upon request.

Marriage: Call the parish office for preparation before setting a fixed date.

1st Communions: Corpus Christi, 2022.

Confirmation: January 16, 2022.

In the Gospel Jesus says that this word is fulfilled today. This word is that captives are freed and prisoners released. If you see that you are a captive of some sin, vice or just crazy thoughts and ideas, then you can be set free. If you are imprisoned by your selfishness or laziness or your inability to love someone, then Jesus is coming to set you free. One way for Him to do this is to come and listen to the talks that are beginning this Monday night. I went to these talks many years ago, when I had a good job in the Government in Canberra and had good friends and a decent family. However, my life was without meaning. I did not know what I wanted to do with my life and I was already 28 years old. Through these talks, they led me to discover my captivities to affections and to my own ideas and will, which were above those even of the Lord, and yet I thought I was a very good Christian! How blind I was. It is only through these talks and the "Way" that I discovered the love of the Lord in the midst of my sins and that He was not scandalised by me nor them. It took some time, (and the process never really finishes), but the Lord gave me direction in my life. I never thought to be a priest but it is only through His grace that I am one today and I thank Him for it. The Lord wants to set you free so I invite everyone to come and listen. That's all you need to do. The team consists of two married couples, a single woman and myself, and all of us have an experience of Jesus Christ that we would like to pass on to you. So please come and listen. It's free. See the following announcement.

Fr. Paul

CATECHESIS FOR ADULTS

COME AND LISTEN

"I am the resurrection. Anyone who believes in me will never die."

Jn. 11:26

**MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS
7-8PM**

Daily Mass (Blue) Chapel

All are invited 13 years and older

Free babysitting

Confirmation with the Cardinal



Link to album:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/HLadzCzSZczfHDI39>

Parish Events Jan. 23-30

Sunday: Holy Mass: 09:00am, 10:30am, 12:30pm
04:00pm Coeur de Marie: Children's group.
05:30pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.
05:00pm Fraternite, Red Room.
05:00pm Creole Youth Choir practice
05:00pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

Monday: 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel
07:00pm Catechesis Blue Chapel
St. Francis de Sales

Tuesday 05:30pm D. Mass, Chapel,
07:00pm 1st English. Church
07:00pm 4th English. B. Sacrament
07:00pm 1st Spanish. Blue Chapel
07:00pm 2nd Spanish. Red Room
Conversion of St. Paul

Wednesday: 05:30pm Daily Mass Chapel
07:00pm 1st Creole. Red Room.
07:00pm 2nd Creole B. Sacrament.
07:00pm 3rd English. Blue Chapel
07:00pm 2nd English, Church
St. Timothy and Titus

Thursday: 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel.
06:00pm Creole Choir Practice Parish Hall.
07:00pm Catechesis, Blue Chapel.
St. Angela Merici

Friday: 05:30pm Daily Mass, Blue Chapel.
06:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction.
06:00pm Confessions.
St. Thomas Aquinas

Saturday: 05:30pm Mass, Church

Liturgy of the Eucharist NCW

07:00pm English: Church.



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: 649-941-7875

This past week, we were happy to have your eminence Joseph William Cardinal Tobin perform the sacrament of confirmation for the candidates and students who were ready to receive the graces of the holy spirit. Congratulations Candidates!

Following the announcement of TCI government protocols, HFA welcomed 11th and 12th grade back to classes last Monday, January 17th. The lower grades will continue virtual classes until presumed safe by the TCI ministry of Education. Teachers and staff are happy to see some of the students back in the campus and are awaiting the return of all the students as soon as it is deemed safe.

www.hfa.catholic.tc

SPONSORS / BENEFACTORS

We continue to look for donations and sponsors to support our **Scholarship Program** and help the school with necessary supplies. Any help God will reward you a hundred fold. If you would like and are able to help contact us at holyfamilytci@gmail.com

You can also donate from the US in the following link:

<https://www.rcan.org/mission-turks-and-caicos-islands>

Wish List

This is another way to help the missionary school or students who are in need, by donating any of the following:

- Tablets
- Hand Sanitizer / alcohol
- Paper hand towels
- Toner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255