**Homily for the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time (1/20/2019)**

Rev. Francis Kim

 Today, we hear the first miracle of Jesus at Cana changing water into wine. It is one of the most beautiful stories in the Bible. One theologian said about this account, “When water met her master, her face changed red.” Beautiful expression!

 This first miracle was not in Jerusalem, not in a great city, but a little known town of Cana. And, it was not an amazing miracle to be known Himself to the people as a Messiah like walking on the sea, or feeding 5000, or healing people in public.

 It was just changing water into wine at a wedding in a small town to save a young couple and their families from embarrassment. This miracle reminds us that God’s transforming power can change anything in our daily life. It is about the transforming power of Christ not only over water, but over human lives.

 And, it was Mary to intercede this miracle. Mary noticed the problem that the couple or the families would be ashamed and got in trouble for running out of wine at wedding ceremony. She wanted to protect this young couple, then, she stepped in, and was persistent with Jesus. Jesus first denied His mother’s request to help. He said, “My hour has not yet come.” It meant this miracle was not in God’s plan yet.

 But, Mary’s fidelity and confidence of God’s tender care made change His plane. God changed His plan for Mary’s faith. Then, Jesus performs His first miracle changing water into wine. It is a great ‘sign’ which is about Jesus changing the ordinary things of our life into places of extraordinary grace ‘by faith.’

 Jesus’ life was all about change. He came to change the world, to teach us how to do a better job of loving God and loving one another. He changed people who were sick and made them well. He changed sinners by forgiving them and telling them to live good lives sin no more. He changed people who were possessed and set them free from the demons that controlled them.

 In His first miracle, He changed water into wind and changed what would have been a failed celebration into a great party. He continues to call us to change. When He began to preach, He called people to change their lives, to get their priorities straight, and to put God first.

 He continues to work miracles of change in the special meal He gave us the night before He died. He took bread and turned it into His body and change wine into His blood.

 When Jesus called people to change their lives, it didn’t always happen. We have a free will to accept what God has spoken to us or to reject it.

 Every other times Jesus told something to change, however, it always happened, whether He was changing a blind person into a person with sight, or a lame person into one who was ambulatory, or whether it was a storm on the sea that He told to calm down.

 If we believe in Him and if we let Him, Jesus will keep changing us until we come to the fullness of life.

 We can reflect on this transforming power of God through the readings today. In the first reading, Isaiah speaks of God’s power to change life. People of Israel lived in exile driven out from their homeland. Then, through the power of God, Israelite would be changed from being known as ‘forsaken’ and ‘abandoned’ to being known as ‘chosen’ and ‘blessed.’

 The second reading also talks about this transforming power. As St. Paul says, we all have different talents. In Christ, our talents can become gifts to the Church, instruments of grace, vehicles of His love, and ways of building up the Church. Jesus can change water into wine, and our talents into tools of the Gospel.

 The first miracle at Cana reminds us that great things can happen in any place and in every place in our lives! Jesus can change water into wine, our past into a different future, our talents into gifts to the Church, small places like Cana into places of ‘gallons of grace’ by ‘faith.’

 We can find actual location of Cana in the map, and it is a few miles from Nazareth. We don’t have to go to Cana to experience the transforming power of Christ in our life. Here, He can give us the power of His grace to change our past into a different future. Here, right now, He can make the ordinary things of our life into places of extraordinary grace.

 Jesus still changes water into wine among us every day!