Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 96

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

John 2:1-11

“Listen to your mother!” That’s a phrase that I and David and Terry heard when we were growing up. “Listen to your mother!”- always said with a light heart. Wherever mom was proved right about something or if there was a dollop of wisdom to be given out or a warning to be had, we heard “Listen to your mother!”

Perhaps that is why Catholics have a strong love of Mary, the Mother of God. If we ask Mary to intercede for us for help in our daily lives, if we go to her with our problems, we know that, if Mary is favorable to our pleas, she can go to Jesus her son with our request. Then we can go to Jesus and say, “Listen to your mother!”

At the wedding feast, Jesus was grown up. He had a posse of disciples with him. These disciples believed Jesus was a forceful preacher. And here Jesus’ mother comes to him with a pedestrian request – help the wedding couple save face with their guests. Jesus is still learning how to be one of us. He says to his mother that his time has not come when he will become the sacrifice that will wed the human race to their Father in heaven. We can hear his mother say “Sure, but help our friends out right now. Listen to your mother!” Jesus listens and obeys – water into wine of all things.

Where am I going with all this? I don’t know.

I have another thought. St. Paul writes to his friends in Corinth that a whole bunch of people have a whole bunch of gifts from the Holy Spirit. Each gift and each person has a place in the Christian community. Not one is greater than the other. And you don’t have to be a special person to do these special things. He should know because he as the premier Christian who founds Christian communities all around the world is really a tent maker by trade.

What about our first reading? The nation of Israel will again be the delight of Yahweh. “No more shall people call you “Forsaken” or your land “Desolate”. I wonder if our God will approve of our nation like He favors Israel? Can the Lord delight in us and make our land His spouse?

Other nations throughout the world have taken in thousands upon thousands of no-name immigrants, refugees from persecution, families who don’t want to live in fear anymore. Will God call our nation “My Delight” and our land “Espoused?”

Let me try to pull these various strains together. Paul says God pours out his gifts on many and various people. Who are we to say that the people on our Southern border waiting to get into the USA don’t have any of these gifts Paul talks about? Who are these people anyways? Well what were the names of the bride and groom, anyway? Yet these no-name persons, they were helped in their need by Jesus through Mary.

Can we say about our nation, which nation was built on God-given principles,

the Lord delights in you and makes your land his spouse? As a young man marries a virgin, will your builder marry you? As a bridegroom rejoices in his bride will your God rejoice in you? Let us hope that we as a people will be a glorious crown in the hand of the Lord, royal diadem held by our God.

I bet Mary sees the plight of these people, immigrants and refugees, moms and babies. What would she say to us and ask us to do? And would we listen to our Mother?