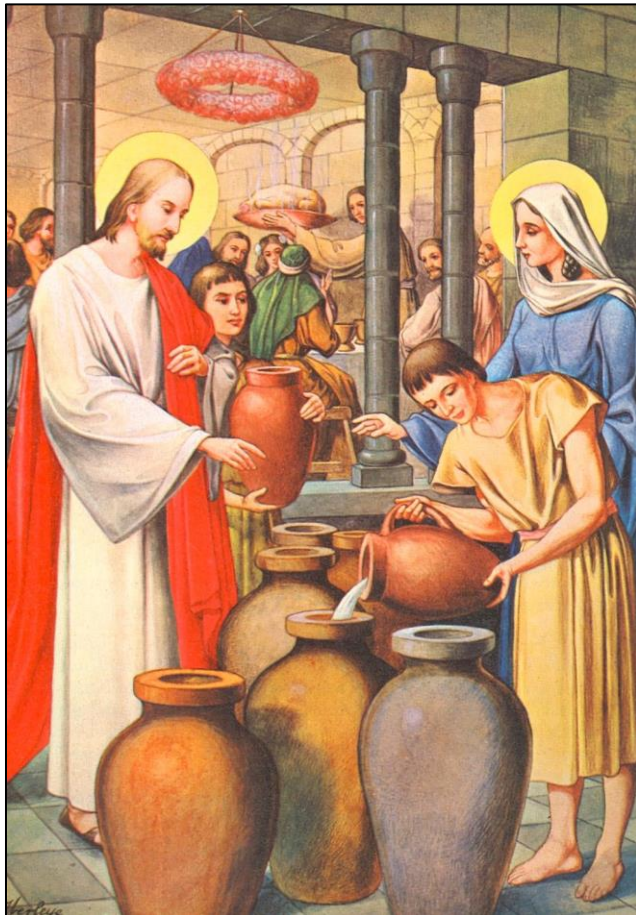


Dear Apostles of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

We wish to thank you with all our hearts for the glorious support you are giving the Family of the Living Rosary which reaches the far corners of the earth. United the world over through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, our **DAILY DECADES** hold infinite power before the throne of God. Please reach out to everyone you can with this magnificent devotion of Faith, Hope and Charity.

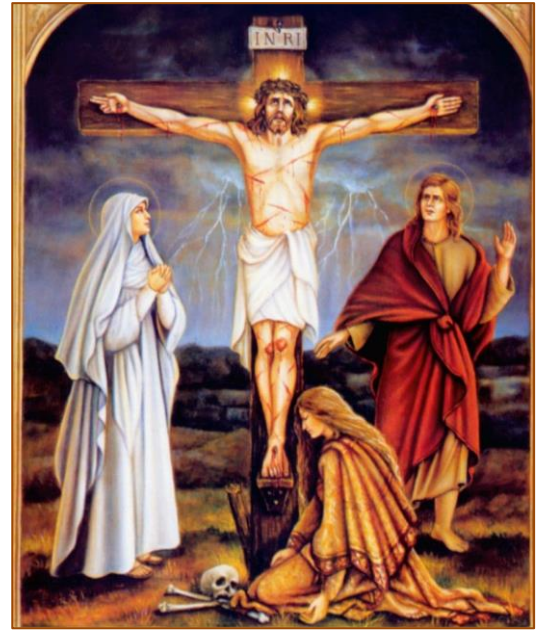
Mary, the Mother of Jesus, received an invitation to a wedding that would take place in Cana, Galilee. A wedding in Palestine and among the Jews was an important event and took the form of a religious ceremony, for it was the means of perpetuating the race until the fullness of time, that is, until the coming of the Messiah. It is good to attend to our social obligations. We should not just tolerate them, but rather cultivate them. One should never use the excuse of asceticism and become anti-social. Mary did not go to the wedding feast to be served. She was the first one to notice that the wine was running out. Nothing that a Christian does is indifferent, everything has repercussions. By the mere fact that the Blessed Virgin was there, the wedding feast at Cana was changed. Jesus and His disciples were invited.



Charity obliges us to be our best. The more we are on fire ourselves, the more we enkindle the same fire in others. The closer and more united we are to God, the more good will we have for those around us. Sometimes, only a smile is needed or a little interest in others, or a friendly manner. We exercise our love for God in how we treat our neighbor. Christ should be placed at the center of society, so that His Spirit may permeate all human activities, transforming and renewing them. We must be like red-hot irons; otherwise instead of influencing our environment, it will overpower us, change us as it likes and make us slaves of worldliness.

In a phrase of only a few words, Mary made known to Christ the need of the newly married couple: ***“They have no wine.”*** This was her prayer of petition. It is so brief and concise that it hardly seems a prayer at all. It is a statement of need, a petition of simplicity, made with total confidence. Mary was the most perfect of creatures; therefore, her prayer was, without doubt, the most perfect prayer. It is a humble prayer. She did not want to trouble her Son. He was God and His Mission came first. But, She was His mother and, in humility and helplessness, She appealed to His mercy. It was a prayer for others, not something for herself. She did not bargain with God, ***‘If you do this for me, I will do that for you.’*** When we bargain with God, the absence of our love for Him is so very obvious! Mary merely pointed out the problem and left the rest to Him, leaving Him perfectly free to do His own will. She told the waiters, ***“Do whatever He tells you.”*** The faith of Mary contained in these few words, overcame time and hastened the hour when Our Lord would manifest His divinity by a miracle. So often, we try to tie God down and restrict His action to only one possible solution, the solution that we, with our limited intelligence, consider the most fitting. If we do not get what we ask for, our prayer becomes weaker and weaker, and finally we abandon it altogether.

Our Lord has shown us the way. We must only try to be simple, humble and trusting: God will do the rest. Our Lady asks us to do, not just something, but precisely what He tells us to do. We must listen to her Son, the Messenger of the Father. Christ was obedient unto death, even to His death on the Cross. There is no incompatibility between freedom and obedience. Humility is Truth! Truth makes us free! He is free who has no sin, for sin separates us from Truth, and makes us servants of falsehood and pride. We are free to the extent to which we are united to Christ - to Truth - by obedience. Obedience is the key virtue and the fulfillment of our vocation for every creature has been made to give glory to God. Disobedience is rebellion which results in death and damnation, obedience is salvation! Obedience is not simply avoiding mortal sin, for we are not simply to avoid offending God, but to love and please Him.



We should learn obedience from the servants to whom Mary told to do whatever Jesus should command. They put themselves at His disposal immediately. When He told them to fill the water-pots, they filled them to the brim! They returned to tell Jesus that His orders had been carried out and, at His direction, they took the wine to be tasted to the chief steward, knowing only water had been placed in them. They never hesitated. They never tried to find out what was going on, they simply obeyed! They were servants and ready to serve. Promptness of obedience is essential for a servant. The consequences of delay, procrastination, passivity and unwillingness are immeasurable! Time is a gift too precious to be wasted. The servants obeyed without saying a word. Obedience should be silent. Protests, remarks and sneers at the Master undermine His authority. The jars were filled to the brim! No one could ask for more; the servants did a perfect job. We cannot obey in halves; we must do a complete job. What Our Lord tells us to do is too important to be left half-done! It is never something trivial, but a serious duty whose significance very often we cannot even suspect. This then is the advice, the only advice that Our Blessed Lady has left to us, that we should do whatever her Son tell us, obey Him willingly, be ready to do anything asked of us, obey promptly, silently, fully and with our whole heart. Mary gave us this perfect example at the Foot of the Cross. Let us imitate Mary in her obedience to her Divine Son for the greater honor and glory of God in time and throughout eternity!

One of our members is dying. Agnes has MS and for years has suffered silently the ravages of this disease. Recently she wrote: I am having a stroke, my brain is bleeding. Please pray for me: ***"I know what God is doing is for the best."*** Pray for her husband who suffers with prostate cancer. Her prayer reminds me of the prayer of Our Blessed Mother, the perfect prayer that brings salvation:

"BEHOLD THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD, BE IT DONE UNTO ME ACCORDING TO THY WILL!"

Our prayers are with you both day and night.

PATTI MELVIN, Director - ULRA

**"DO WHATEVER
HE TELLS YOU!"**

Let us pray for one another.