

Mary is not just the physical mother of Jesus. She is the spiritual mother of us all, and she is actively involved with Jesus in the work of our redemption. We see this in today's story about the wedding feast at Cana.

Weddings in the Holy Land were celebrated not just for a day, but for a whole week. The entire town took part, and everyone had a lot to eat and drink. It must have been a big embarrassment when the wedding party ran out of wine. But Mary sees the problem right away. She goes to Jesus and says, "They have no wine."

At first, Jesus seems reluctant to do anything. He tells his mother, "My hour has not yet come." But she goes ahead and instructs the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Like all good mothers, Mary calls Jesus to his vocation; she encourages him to do the special the job God has given him. She calls on Jesus to begin the divine work for which he was sent. And because his mother asks, Jesus performs his very first miracle.

How did Mary know that Jesus could turn gallons of water into wine? Good mothers know their children. They know their hidden talents and potential. Many people have accomplished great things in life because their mothers believed in and encouraged them.

But did you ever wonder: If Mary knew her son was a wonder-worker, how come she never asked him to multiply her bread, change her water into wine, or double her money to make ends meet? Why did Mary never ask Jesus to use his miraculous power to help *her*? Why, instead, was she so quick to ask her son to use his power to help *others*?

Some say that charity begins at home. But for Mary and Jesus, the needs of others came first.

Jesus knew that he could perform miracles. Yet when he fasted in the desert for 40 days, he refused the devil's suggestion that he turn stones into bread. But later, when a crowd of his followers was hungry, he did not hesitate to multiply a few loaves of bread to make food for all to eat.

What are Mary and Jesus telling us through their actions? They are telling us that God's gifts to each of us are meant, most of all, to serve others.

Today is a good day to ask ourselves: "What gifts has God given me? Am I using these gifts mainly for my own personal benefit, or am I using them to help people in the community?" If we begin using the gifts we have for the common good--our gifts of praying, singing, caring, sharing, encouraging, and loving--then these gifts will begin to grow, and soon we too will see miracles.

Today, even after Our Lady's Assumption into heaven, she continues to plead to God on our behalf. She wants to help us on our journey to God and give us the grace to use our gifts for those around us.

St. Louis Marie de Montfort, who was devoted to Mary, once wrote, “God the Father made a gathering of all the waters and called it the sea (*maris* in Latin); he made a gathering of all graces and called it *Maria*.”

Mary is the Sea of all the graces that our Lord wants to pour out on all humanity.

When we need grace, when we require God’s help, all we need to do is go to Mary, the sea of all graces, and turn on the tap. If we ask sincerely, our Blessed Mother will help us with any problem.

So join me now, as together we implore, “Mary, star of the sea, pray for us. Amen.”

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