

## Second Sunday, Ordinary Time January 14, 2007

Some people seem to have the Midas touch. Whatever they touch turns to gold. For example, some people are great cooks. They can take a refrigerator full of ordinary leftovers and transform them into a gourmet meal. Some people are great teachers. They can take failing students and transform them into rocket scientists. Some people are great artists who can craft ordinary words into a beautiful poem, or transform ordinary stone into an evocative sculpture. Some people are techno-wizards who can transform a crashed computer into an updated miracle machine. I think Jesus probably had the Midas touch. He was all about transformation. He had the ability to transform ordinary things into extraordinary things. Whatever he touched turned to gold.

At Cana Jesus transforms water into wine. Wow! That's really an amazing transformation! In fact it's so amazing that it distracts us from the *most* amazing transformation that happens at that wedding in Cana. What could be more amazing than turning water into wine? Well, I think that the greatest miracle that day is the transformation that happens in the disciples. Sometimes we're so distracted by the miracle of the wine that we don't notice the most important line of the Gospel passage: "...*his disciples began to believe in him.*" Now there's a miraculous transformation! Jesus has the Midas touch. He transforms ordinary people into *believers*. When people encounter Jesus, when they encounter the abundance of his love, when they realize how much he delights in them, when they realize how much he rejoices in them, they are transformed into believers. They are transformed into people who believe in the promise and possibilities of love.

Have you ever allowed yourself to really listen to these words of the Prophet Isaiah from our first reading? "*The Lord delights in you and makes your land his spouse. As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; And as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so shall your God rejoice in you.*" God delights in us. Jesus delights in us. I really believe that this delight is the source of his Midas touch. It's this delight of Jesus that gives him the ability to transform ordinary people into believers. Jesus delights and rejoices in us so much that he is willing to give his life for us. In the transformed bread and wine of the Eucharist we remember

each week that Jesus gives his body and blood for us, his very life, so that we will know, beyond the shadow of a doubt, how much he delights in us.

Sometimes we probably get so distracted by the technicalities of the miracle of the Eucharistic bread and wine that we forget the *most* miraculous transformation that happens at Mass. Not only the bread and wine are transformed, but we are transformed. We are transformed into the body and blood of Christ. We ordinary people are transformed into believers, the presence of Christ in the world. We individuals who gather here are transformed into a community, a family. And as a community of believers, we share the Midas touch. Jesus invites us to join him in transforming the world by sharing his delight and abundant love with the human family.

St. Paul tells us today that there are different gifts but the same Spirit. We are teachers, and artists, and cooks, and techno wizards. We are preachers and poets, doctors and lawyers. We are mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters. Most importantly we are disciples. Jesus has shared his Midas touch with each one of us believers united in the Spirit. Let us go out and touch the world.