

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

A man tells his doctor that he's incapable of doing all the things around the house that he used to do. When the examination is over, he says, "Okay, Doctor. In plain English—what's wrong with me?"

"Well, in plain English," says the doctor, "you're just lazy."

The man nods. "Now give me the medical term so I can tell my wife."

Dear Friends,

We start the ordinary weekends of the year after the joyous season of Christmas. In both the first reading and the Gospel, the readings talk about a wedding and its celebration. These imageries focus on newness, abundance and fullness.

In the first reading, God delights in his people comparing the joy of a bridegroom. This intimate relationship between God and His people highlights His unwavering commitment to us. This is a beautiful poem that brings new life and identity to Zion.

In the Gospel, Jesus brings new life through turning water into wine. This is the first of seven signs that John's Gospel portrays. He used the term sign for the miracles to describe as evidence of his divinity and way to eternal life. Mary plays an important role in Jesus' divinity. She connects herself in God's glory. This shows God's love in abundance and his generosity.

Today I would invite all of you to reflect on the generosity of the spirit and the gifts given to us. In the second reading, Paul talks about different gifts. He emphasizes very clearly the purpose of those gifts given to each one of us.

He addressed the Corinthian community that because of their boasting and pride, it led to divisions. These gifts are given to certain individuals to serve to the common good. Paul's focus is to share the gifts for the common good. Not everyone can do everything. Lots of times, our thought goes that I can do everything.

Sharing and caring with love for the common good is more important. We are called to share through our Baptism. There is a particular call to each and every one of you through our gifts to share for the common good. It is like a football team. It is not the one player that makes the whole game win. Lots of times, the focus is given to the quarterback. But it is teamwork. Each of the player shares his gifts to the team and the game.

Let us think about our church; that some of the programs that we had have been gone for many reasons. Sometimes it is gone because the person who initiated the program is not

able to do it. Many times, it looks like that person didn't want to share their gifts with anyone or bring someone up to speed.

Today God asks us to think about our particular gifts that are given to us, and how do we use them for the common good?

How do I use my gifts to build up the parish community and make it stronger? Do I have the mentality of sharing and caring with Love?