

## Gospel Reflection

When I was studying for the priesthood at the archdiocesan seminary in Boston, the seminarians attended the annual Chrism Mass as a group at the cathedral. At the Chrism Mass, the diocesan bishop blesses the oils to be used in parishes throughout the diocese for the coming year. The Archbishop of Boston at the time, the late Humberto Cardinal Medeiros, was presiding at a particularly memorable one. That year, a young woman, who lived with an emotional disability and was obviously in quite a bit of distress, rushed toward the table that held the oils, grasped one of the vessels and began pouring the oil all over herself. She prayed aloud as she did so. Most of those in attendance at the cathedral stood in shocked silence, except for one person. Cardinal Medeiros approached the distraught woman and gently placed his hands on hers. He offered soothing words and a pastoral embrace. Her expression immediately changed from twisted and frightened to calm and peaceful.

Each time I hear today's Gospel about the king who gave a wedding feast I think of Cardinal Medeiros' actions that day. The king in the parable asks his servants to invite all people, those perceived as "good" and those perceived as "bad," to the banquet when the regular invited guests do not show up. At Boston's Chrism Mass that year, one who might have been perceived as "bad" had entered the cathedral and done something that was unacceptable. Yet the cardinal saw fit to comfort her in her distress. His actions were very much like the king's in today's parable—which are a sign to us of God's way of acting. God's embrace extends to all, the good and bad alike. Let us praise God for a welcoming love that does not make distinctions. All are called to holiness.

## KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

*Matthew 22:1-14*

S P O O R T C Y S B S Q F  
 T M E G N I D D E W T Y O  
 S I N V I T A T I O N C V  
 E S N E S O H C D R A O O  
 U T E K R V N X R T V H T  
 G R G N I K L L A H R M O  
 A E I C K Z T Z R Y E D X  
 R A M R C R S S K Y S E A  
 M T E U Q N A B Z U C B R  
 E E P G Z B E D K E M Z P  
 N D E W S Z F M Z T A D S  
 T L K V Q F S F V V N D D  
 X R U J X R A E C P F U V

**Find these words from the Gospel passage.**

GUESTS	CHOSEN	DARKNESS
FEAST	GARMENT	BANQUET
HALL	INVITATION	MAIN ROADS
KING	MISTREATED	SERVANTS
TROOPS	WEDDING	WORTHY

## Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
10/12/2008*

*Matthew 22:1-14  
Faith-Sharing  
Questions of the Week*



***Our Lady of the Assumption***

435 Berkeley Ave.  
Claremont, CA  
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## Call to Prayer

*We begin by calling upon God:*

**In the Name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the  
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with  
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

**The Word of God:** *Matthew 22:1-14*

### ***The Gospel according to Matthew***

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a **wedding feast** for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come.

"A second time he sent other servants saying, "Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fatted cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast." Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and **burned their city**.

"Then he said to his servants, "The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite whoever you find.' The servants went out into the

streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to meet the guests, he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment. The king said to him, 'My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?' But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants, 'Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be **wailing and grinding of teeth**.' Many are invited but few are chosen."

### ***The Gospel of the Lord***



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### **Gospel Glossary**

**wedding feast:** This metaphor for salvation is also found in *Isaiah*.

**burned their city:** This echoes the punishment of the wicked tenants in last week's parable and may also refer to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 AD.

**wailing and grinding of teeth:** A phrase used frequently in this gospel to indicate final condemnation.

## Faith Sharing

### **Questions of the Week**

- When have I ignored God's invitations?
- What helps me to realize the seriousness of God's invitations and the foolishness of my excuses to ignore them?
- How do I prepare for the divine banquet of the Eucharist?

## Closing Prayer

Father in Heaven,

The hand of your loving kindness powerfully yet gently guides all the moments of our day. Go before us in our pilgrimage of life, anticipate our needs and prevent our falling. Send your Spirit to unite us in faith, that sharing in your service, we may rejoice in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary**