

## ONE LAST WORD

### The Delight of It

Somehow, reflecting and praying about colleagues and partners gets solemn. Any crucial matter can. Take as an instance the crucial matter of Jesus' "time" for his works of power. He had the sense that a definite time was set, as he reminded his mother at Cana: "My time has not yet come." The reason, people who know tell us, is that Jesus' miracles were works of power connected with what he was teaching.

He was not exactly teaching at Cana in Galilee. He was at a party. But when his mother asked, well before his time, he did not moralize about drink. He did not merely add a bit of liquid to dry jugs. No. He made the party's best wine. That is what everyone remembered. Hilarious: the best wine kept to last!

Perhaps he was teaching, after all. Crucial as the matter of his time was, Jesus would not treat it lightly. So he was teaching when he delighted the company with the best of wine. He was teaching *delight*. God delights. How could we miss it? Flocks of geese and pods of wales. Huge heaps of clouds and endless piles of sand. Roses and lilies of the field. And people. God must delight in people; he keeps making more and more.

So in this solemn reflection and prayer, it's time for a note a delight. God delights in laity finding God in all things. In religious sitting down and listening to each other, and to laity. In prisoners taught to pray and groups sharing faith and hope.

And God delights in watching religious and laity teaching and learning together. The laity learn that the love of the religious is holy and uniquely enduring, fixed in the Holy One and fixed on everyone else in God. The religious learn that the love of the laity is holy and uniquely urgent, fixed in the jeopardy of mutual need and fulfillment and of growing together in God. And the Triune God, who knows both to endure alone and to urge relationships, delights in the calm urgency of their partnerships.

Who would have thought it? The best wine kept to last. Delightful.