

## **28<sup>th</sup> Sunday Homily**

**I have an announcement to make before beginning the homily. I have four free dinner coupons to Andiamo's Restaurant on the Riverfront. It's one of my favorite places to eat. They have excellent steaks, sea food and pasta. The dinners are for this coming Friday night. Is anyone interested in them? Well, I am sorry to say that I really don't have any coupons, but as I mentioned this offer to you, the first thing you might think about is: is anything going on in my life on Friday? Let me check my calendar. Can I take advantage of this great offer?**

**Today's readings offers everyone here free passes to TWO great feasts. In our first reading, through the prophet Isaiah, God invites us to a mountain top restaurant where they will be served the best of meats and the finest wine. We will be so content that God will remove every tear from our eye. God will even destroy death forever.**

**Our second dinner invitation comes from Jesus in the parable today found in 22<sup>nd</sup> chapter of St. Matthew. We hear the story of a father who is inviting us to the wedding feast of his son.**

**In fact, we hear that the calves and fattened cattle are already. Bring on the T bone and porterhouse steaks! The wine is poured. Come to the wedding banquet. But when people look at their schedule. They have other things to do; some to their farm and others to their**

**business. (side bar: key reason for people not coming to Sunday mass: they are too busy). But even after those invited turn down the father's invitation, he insists, "I want the banquet filled!"**

**He sends his servants out to the highways and byways, to all the bus stops on Evergreen and Seven and Eight Mile Road to get people to fill the banquet hall. Do you know the motley crew he is going to have seated at the banquet? Have you ever ridden the Seven Mile bus? God doesn't care. He wants his banquet filled to capacity.**

**Let's say that you are one of the people standing at the bus stop on 7 Mile who are invited. You decide to come. Hey, why not! It is a free meal of choice meats and fine wine! But when you get there, the owner has another surprise in store for you. He invites you to be co-owner of the restaurant. In the words of scripture, he invites you to put on the wedding garment, to be adopted into the family, to join in the family business!**

**Now, you say to yourself, this is a whole different level of involvement. It is something that you never dreamed of. It is a dream come true, a step which will radically change the direction of your life. Jesus realizes it will change your life, and so he tells you that ALL the family will be there to support and strengthen you in your choice to join. The ownership of Andiamo's, (AKA , the Kingdom of God) is not**

**only extended to you but to your children as well. You really want to say yes to this invitation, for yourself and especially for your children.**

**(Pause)**

**Why did I bring up this question of an invitation to be co-owners of the Kingdom of God. Well, this weekend at the 11:00 Mass, we have a family who has been invited to be co-owners, not in Andiamo's but in something greater. They bring their child so that she may inherit the kingdom prepared for her before the beginning of the world. She has been invited to put on the white garment of co-ownership in the Kingdom. And we rejoice with Jonathan and Jewel. We all are promising, as people who by our own baptism are co-owners of the kingdom, that we promise to assist them in helping \_\_\_\_\_ to claim her rightful inheritance of the Kingdom of God.**

**In preparation for the baptism of their child, Jonathan and Jewel came to a baptismal class. Miriam Hudson, who was the catechist, asked how the family of Corpus Christi who carry on the legacy of Jesus Christ, could support them in their role of teaching \_\_\_\_\_ what it means to be a co-owner in the Kingdom. They said they would like to meet some couples. Miriam, a bit puzzled, asked them to explain. They said that the only young people they know well who live in the area are either single or living together. They did not know of any**

**young couples who live are attempting to live out the Christian legacy as couples and young parents.**

**Today (tomorrow) we (will) offer them (you, Jonathan and Jewel) support you are asking for. (I would ask the members of the newly formed young couples group to please stand.) These are your co-owners. These are your fellow witnesses of married life. These, along with all the Corpus Christi community, pledge to support you in the way of life your child embraces today.**

**Look around you, church. The banquet is ready; the table is about to be set; The life of the kingdom lies before us. Let us accept the invitation, climb the mountain, and embrace the life of being a disciple of the Lord. All who are hungry for life, come to the banquet.**