

**T**he roots of Mary's intercessory role are to be found in the Old Testament. At one time in Israel the king could have many wives. In order to avoid rivalries and disputes, the queen mother was the first lady in the land. She assisted the king in ruling the kingdom. The queen mother had two interrelated roles. Firstly, she was the king's counsellor. She would advise him about administrative matters. Secondly, she had the role of advocate. The ordinary people could approach her with their requests, and she would present them to her son, the king. She was their intercessor, who pleaded on their behalf. There is an instructive example of what was involved in 1 Kings 2:19-20. It is about the relationship that existed between King Solomon and his mother Bathsheba. In the text we are told, 'and the king rose to meet her and bowed down to her; and he sat on his throne, and had a seat brought for the king's mother, and she sat on his right. Then she said, "I have one small request to make of you, do not refuse me." And the king said to her, "make your request, my mother, for I will not refuse you."'

In the story of the marriage feast of Cana we have an outstanding New Testament example of the spiritual

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

## THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour's command ...  
**Our Father, who art in heaven, ...**  
Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, ...  
**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**  
Lord Jesus Christ, ... **Amen.**  
The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And with your spirit.**  
**Lamb of God, you take away the sins ...**

Behold the Lamb of God, ...  
**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**  
**Communion Antiphon** (Cf. Ps 22:5)  
**You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.**  
**Prayer after Communion**  
Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, and in your kindness make those you have nourished by this one heavenly Bread one in mind and heart.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

relationship between the mother and the king. When a shortage of wine was imminent, Mary interceded with a confidence greater than that of queen Bathsheba. We are told in John 2:3-5, 'when, the wine failed the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not come yet." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."' Although, up to that moment, Jesus had no reason to believe that the father was authorising him to perform deeds of power, he discerned in Mary's compassionate request that the hour

had finally arrived. He recognised that her spontaneous impulse of loving concern was inspired by the Spirit and therefore an expression of the Father's will. Just as she had given birth to Jesus as a result of her obedient faith at the annunciation, so now she was giving birth to his public ministry, as a result of the same docile trust. 'O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you.' ■

— Pat Collins



## Reflection

What recent water-experience was turned into wine for you?

## Lesson

The water becoming wine is an indication of what should take place in our hearts.

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, increase our devotion to your mother Mary. Once at Cana she told those asking your help to do whatever you would indicate. May she continue to lead us to a greater love of you. Amen.