28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A
"THANKSGIVING"
October 11, 2026

After the anointing during a baptism ritual, the priest would pray:

'As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet and King, so may you
live as a member of His Body sharing eternal life.'

This prayer is invoked upon the newly baptized, celebrating the call to holiness of the person and participation in the very person of Jesus the Christ.

Today's Gospel passage from Matthew 22 is set in the image of the Wedding feast. Similar to the image of the vineyard, all are invited to share in the joy of the occasion. At the time of Jesus' life, weddings (a celebration of an unbreakable bond: marriage) were great events for the entire community, joy filled events of food, wine and celebration, an occasion to participate in the joy of the couple.

This wedding is for the son of the King, transposing it to another dimension of importance. The cavalier way that the invitees respond is shocking to the King. Soon the parable is applied to the very participation in the Kingdom of God and the importance of a response to attend. Like the anointing prayer in Baptism, sharing in the Kingdom speaks of attendance, participation and the call to concretely live the call.

The final verse of Matthew's gospel reveals a deeper meaning in the parable:

'For many are called, but few are chosen.' (Matt.22:14)

From all being called, the response is more than being present. It is as Matthew 25:45 states so powerfully: whatsoever you do to the least of these sisters or brothers of mine, you do to me. Concrete acts are the essence of the wedding garment in the parable. Sincerely, we wear the garment daily, responding to the needs of our sisters and brothers.

'Every one of us has been called by the Lord. The important
thing is to know how to answer his call' (St. John XXIII)

Blessings of peace in the world!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Fr. Don