

BLESSINGS ALWAYS
January 15, 2025
Association Minister Message
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RESOLUTION. Needs. Problems. Fixing. Helping. There is so much to do today in facilitating and *RESOLVING* to do simple things like sharing meals with someone in need to complexity of solving peace between nations. Children come to us crying because of lost friendships or hurt because someone is not treating them with kindness. People experience betrayal when friends do not offer support during controversies. Lack of respect causes deterioration of relationships in families and the world communities.

The Gospel writer John writes in chapter 2 about Mary asking Jesus to do something because the wedding reception ran out of wine. Wine was a central component of wedding celebrations and the practice of hospitality. It is an interesting conversation between Jesus and His mother Mary. Mary says, *"They have no wine."* Jesus responds, *"Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come."* Jesus had just experienced being in the wilderness to meditate seeking guidance for the ministry that He was about to begin. Jesus' hometown people knew Him as the carpenter's son, not as a spiritual or societal leader, and they questioned His authority. Mary got involved because without wine the wedding party would be a disaster.

Mary is a witness to encountering needs and wanting to *RESOLVE* even what seems trivial. Even though Jesus at first is reluctant to get involved, He did a miracle of something that seems so mundane and insignificant, yet it became significant because the bridal party would have a celebration of great joy. In our time, justice delayed is justice denied. Our nation has the resources and can *RESOLVE* to do away with poverty, provide healthcare services for everyone, and welcome everyone around the table of community love. Mary acted, Jesus eventually responded, and a celebration happened. It does not have to be a major catastrophe that needs action. Even a smile, a hello, or a nod can also *RESOLVE* to make a difference in relationships. We are all called to share our gifts and graces to make this world as God intends it to be. Let us *RESOLVE* to be persons who love, heal, and share our resources to be *"fixers"* and *"lovers"* of God's family and creation. *BLESSINGS ALWAYS*.