

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

October 10-11, 2026

Readings:

Isaiah 25:6-10a

Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20 Matthew 22:1-14

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Welcome to this Eucharistic banquet. Today God gives us one simple message: **He has prepared a feast, and you are invited.**

In the Gospel, Jesus Christ tells a parable: a king prepares a wedding feast for his son. Everything is ready, but the first guests are too busy. They have farms and businesses to run. They do not come to the party. So the king says, “Go to the streets. Invite everyone — good and bad, young and old, rich and poor.” And the hall is filled.

This is the beauty of our God. His invitation is universal. No one is left out. He says, “Come, there is a place for you.” We tasted a little of that joy last weekend at our St. Bavo feast — people from different backgrounds, even from different Parishes, sharing food, laughing, belonging, freely interacting. That is a small picture of heaven.

But then the king sees a man without a wedding garment. “My friend, how did you come without it?” The man has no answer.

THE WEDDING GARMENT.

Let me share a humble memory from my village in Uganda. I was four, five, six years old. At weddings, we children in old clothes and dusty feet would run and sit in the front chairs, the best seats. When the bride and groom arrived, the ushers would kindly say, “Francis, come with your friends, we have special rice and meat for you at the back.” We thought it was an honor! We went happily. When we returned, our chairs were taken by elders in beautiful clothes. We stood outside, listening to music, holding our plate of rice and meat and a soda. Yet we were happy. At least we tasted the feast.

I know the fact that, every Sunday, we are happy to gather in Church.

So, what is the wedding garment?

The Host is God the Father. The Son is Jesus Christ. The Servants are the prophets and all who bring the Gospel. The Feast is this Eucharist. And the guests — that is us, on a journey to be more loving, more holy, more humble.

The garment God wants is not a golden suit, not a golden dress, not even this beautiful chasuble I wear. **The true garment is the holiness of our hearts.**

What does that look like?

A heart full of love and kind.

A heart full of forgiveness — that lets go of anger.

A heart that teaches goodness by example.

A heart that says “Yes” to God, even when it is hard.

A heart ready to receive Jesus — humble and clean.

A heart that is patient — at home and everywhere.

This garment never goes out of fashion. It makes us ready for Holy Communion, and ready for heaven.

With great humility, I ask you to pray for me, as I pray for you. May Mother Mary and St. Bavo pray for us, that we may wear the true wedding garment of holiness — not just on Sunday, but every day — until we meet at the eternal feast of heaven.