September 24th: Our Lady of Mercy

Gospel text (*Jn* 2:1-11): There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servers, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings... Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

Our Lady of the Mercy

Cardinal Ricard Mª CARLES i Gordó Emeritus Archbishop of Barcelona
(Barcelona, Spain)

Today we celebrate Our Lady of the Mercy, a great solemnity in Barcelona. In the Gospel we see that Mary attends the wedding at Cana, where «Jesus and his disciples had also been invited» (Jn 2:1-2). Jesus, Mary and the disciples, that is, us! Never had a mother been able to choose her son. Much less has a son been able to choose his mother. Only Christ was able to. This is why He made her totally perfect, and then He also gave her to us as our mother. In the dialogue of love between God and man the shadow of sin overlaps it. But it does so next to a great light: the figure of a wonderful woman, thanks to whom the verb, made man, embraced, again and definitely the creation, to return it to the Father.

—What ennobles man is more his moral sense than his material instruments and his intelligence. You may have great technique and intelligence but not be able to achieve happiness or be useful to others. It is for this reason, that we welcome St. Mary’s protection, “Comforter of the afflicted”.