

## **The Thirst for More**

I know that everyone at one time in their life has had a thirst for more. Maybe as a young child, we aspire to become professional sports players or a famous person on television. When we are into our teens, maybe our thirst changes to having a real nice car, or a good paying job so that we could go out with our friends and enjoy different activities.

Maybe in our early twenties, we start thirsting for a great partner to marry and a brand new home and a family. As we grow older, we may start thirsting for an advancement in our job and maybe a nice retirement fund to look forward to.

When we hit retirement, maybe our thirst is more for time with the grandchildren and maybe some travel experiences.

No matter what our age, we as humans have a tendency to thirst for something.

In today's gospel, we hear about the Samaritan woman traveling to the well to attain water to quench her physical thirst. She was not aware that her life was about to change when she met Jesus at the well. Little did she know that Jesus was going to satisfy her spiritual thirst.

All of us at some point in our lives, develop a spiritual thirst for a greater relationship with God. Maybe that thirst gets a little stronger as we grow older in our lives or maybe when we encounter challenges in our life.

As we see with the woman at the well, Jesus explains to her about the life giving water that He can provide for her. It is not a surprise that she asks Him to give her that water so that she will not have to carry that large jug and thirst again. Through their dialogue she comes to start a relationship with Jesus and then she goes back to town and starts to share that life giving water with the others in the town.

So how do we seek out that water that helps to quench our spiritual thirst? I believe that we can get that "water" through the graces that flow from the well of sacraments in the Catholic Church. If we start to drift away from the church, and think that we can get our thirst met in other ways, our souls start to get thirsty again for that life giving water.

If we stay close to the fount of graces flowing from Jesus Christ through the sacraments, not only will our thirst be satisfied, but we will have enough to share with others. And when we share our fulfillment with others, we can come

back to receive even more of those graces to quench our thirst and to help others to quench their thirst as well.

This gospel is used by the Catholic Church for the first week of the scrutinies for those going through the OCIA process. You see, the people that are preparing themselves for the reception of the fullness of the sacraments at the Easter Vigil, have longed to have their spiritual thirst for the grace of the sacraments fulfilled.

They have discerned to follow the path that leads to Christ and the life giving water and grace of the sacraments.

So how about you. Do you thirst for a deeper relationship with Christ? Are we willing to draw closer to Him during this Lenten season so that He can continue to fill us with that life giving water? And when we have partaken of that water, are we excited to go and share it with others like the woman at the well did?

I think these are some great questions for you to think about as we continue our journey of Lent.

**God's Blessings**

**Deacon Jim**