



## PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY HOLY LAND COLLECTION

*Third Sunday of Lent:*

### **QUENCHING OUR THIRST WITH LIVING WATER**

We talk about Lent as a time of invitation from God. What does God want to give us this Lent? In today's gospel, we look at the story of a woman who is in need but doesn't know where her help will come from. She doesn't know how to change her life and its often unpleasant patterns. But through an encounter with Christ at the well, she leaves behind her past and her fears and begins a new life. God invites her, and she says yes!.

John's gospel tells us she went every day to the well to draw water. But she drew it out of physical necessity to quench a physical thirst. Our Lord spoke to her about "living water" that He would give, the water that would truly quench her thirst and become in her "a spring of water welling up to eternal life." This is the water we all thirst for, the living water of the Holy Spirit, the water that satisfies our thirst for the infinite. Pope Francis wrote that man is like a traveler who, crossing the deserts of life, thirsts for this living water: gushing and fresh, capable of quenching his deep desire for light, love, beauty, and peace. "We all feel this desire," he writes, "and Jesus gives us this living water: He is the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and whom Jesus pours out into our hearts. 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly,' Jesus tells us."

Lent is a time for us to quench our thirst, to rediscover the meaning of our life in Christ. This is a special time to encounter Jesus like the Samaritan woman at the well and to be transformed by our



encounter with Him like she was. The Lord wants to give us living water. This is why He came to earth, that we might have life and have it abundantly. Sin is the obstacle to that abundant life, so we have this time of Lent for our deeper conversion to the Lord.

The Church invites us to drink from the living waters of the Holy Spirit. Then, like the Samaritan woman, we are no longer thirsty. In fact, we are transformed into missionary disciples, who go forth like the Samaritan woman to spread the love of Christ and satiate His thirst for the salvation of souls. Please consider making a generous contribution on Good Friday to the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land to help preserve the Christian presence and preserve the Holy Sites in the Holy Land.

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