



Lasallian Reflections

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Brothers of the Christian Schools

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The Thirst That Dwells Within

Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.

Opening Song *[choose an appropriate hymn]*

First Reading John 4:6-14

Tired from his journey, Jesus sat down by the well; it was about noon. Now a Samaritan woman came to draw water; and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had just gone into town to buy some food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan and a woman, for a drink?" (For Jews, in fact, have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus replied, "If you only knew the Gift of God! If you knew who it is that asks you for a drink, you yourself would have asked me; and I would have given you living water." The woman answered, "Sir, you have no bucket and this well is deep; where is your living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well after he drank from it himself, together with his sons and his cattle?"

Jesus said to her, "Those who drink of this water will be thirsty again; but those who drink of the water that I shall give will never be thirsty; for the water that I shall give will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Brief Pause for Quiet Reflection *[about 3 to 5 minutes]*

Our Response Psalm 63:1-9

Side One: O God, you are my God, it is you I seek;
for you my body longs and my soul thirsts,
as a dry and weary land without water.

Side Two: Thus have I gazed upon you in the sanctuary,
to see your power and your glory.

Side One: Your love is better than life,
my lips will glorify you.
I will bless you as long as I live,
lift up my hands and call on your name.

Side Two: As with the richest food my soul will feast;
my mouth will praise you with joyful lips.

Side One: When I remember you on my bed
I think of you all through the night,
for you have been my help;

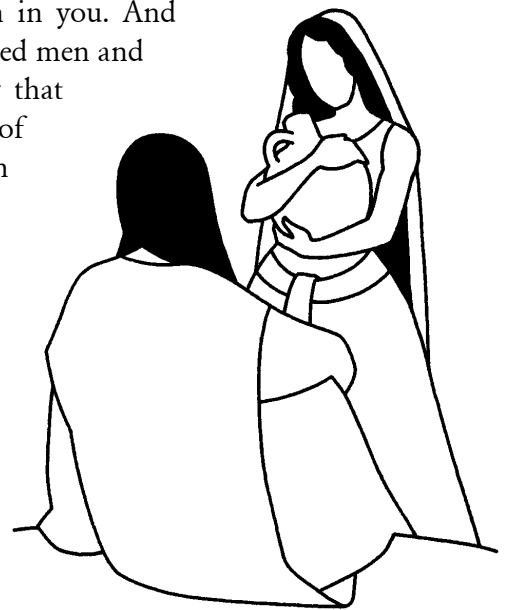
Side Two: I sing in the shadow of your wings.
My soul clings to you,
your right hand upholds me.

Side One: Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Side Two: as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.

Second Reading from “Seekers of Wells and Roads: Two Icons”
by *Dolores Alexandre, RSCJ*

“Don't be afraid to acknowledge the thirst that dwells within in you. And don't deceive yourselves into believing that your life as consecrated men and women exempts you from the uncertainties and vulnerability that throb in the heart of every human being. Change your attitude of being never-ending “donors,” and see yourselves as travelers with those who travel and seekers with those who are seeking. Because only then will you experience the joyful surprise of being evangelized by the very people you want to evangelize. Learn how to listen better, and instead of preaching and directing so much, become experts in asking questions, conversing, and sharing with others that poverty that puts us all in the same boat. Because only if you experience your thirst will you be able to fathom what I learned by the well. The thirsty man who asked me for water turned out to be the one who quenched my thirst, and later made me decide to tell everyone in my town about Him.



And precisely because I knew I needed salvation, I was able to get across to others that I had met someone who welcomed me without judging or condemning me. Come celebrate that poverty with me, by the ledge of the well. It is a poverty that when recognized and related to Jesus is not an obstacle to receiving the gift of living water, but the best chance we have to welcome it and let it burst into eternal Life.

But I caution you, be ready. He may be waiting for you anywhere, anytime of the day, just when you're engrossed in trivial concerns, petty quarrels, or stale traditions bound up with status or rules. If you stop to listen to Him, you'll be under His spell forever. At first, He will ask you for something simple (“Please give me some water,” “Call your husband”...); but in the end, you'll return home without water, without a jug, and with a thirst you've never known before, to attract your whole town to Him”.

Pause for Quiet Reflection *[about 10 to 15 minutes]*

- *What is “the thirst that dwells within you”?*
- *What is it - “something simple” - that Jesus presently asks of you?*
- *How does your own experience of personal and spiritual “poverty” provide you with opportunities “to welcome [this living gift of Jesus] and let it burst into eternal life”?*
- *Have you ever experienced “the joyful surprise of being evangelized by the very people you want to evangelize”?*

Closing Prayer

All: Compassionate and merciful God,
 conscious as we are
 of your goodness and
 of the uncertainties and vulnerabilities
 that throb in the heart of every human being,
 we are not afraid to acknowledge the thirst that dwells within us.

Refresh and renew us, we pray,
with the gift of living water.

May you be that spring of life
welling up within us,
empowering and strengthening us
to embrace the poverty we experienced with you
by the ledge of the well and
to live out our consecration in the world,
with a greater simplicity and openness.

May we never tire of sharing
with our fellow-travelers and our fellow-seekers
the marvelous wonders of what you have done for us. Amen.

St. John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us.

Live, Jesus, in our hearts, forever!

*[Dolores Aleixandre, RSCJ, “Seekers of Wells and Roads:
Two Icons for a Samaritan Religious Life” (Rome, Religious Life Congress, 2004)]*