

Lenten Reflection



Third Sunday of Lent March 19, 2017

By Sister Elena Almendarez, CDP

“Lord, you are truly the Savior of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.” (from the Verse Before the Gospel)

As human beings we are created in such a way that we need water. We get thirsty! Living, in Western Pennsylvania, it's easy to take water for granted. We have three rivers running through our city and water in abundance. But if you have ever lived in a desert or in a place where water is not safe to drink from the tap, you know that being thirsty takes on a whole new meaning. Water becomes something that needs to be thought about and planned for so that your thirst can be quenched at the time when you most need it.

The pursuit of water was probably built into the daily activities of the Samaritan woman who was getting water at the well in today's gospel. Even now, most frequently it is women and children who carry water to their homes all over the world; in Africa and Asia, the average distance they carry it is 3.7 miles.* This takes planning and is most likely never taken for granted. In our first world country, while water might not take planning in our daily lives, finding God can. We can be so distracted and God can fall low on our priority list--not by design but sometimes by default. The Samaritan woman was the person who carried water but she also carried the good news of Jesus to her village so that their thirst for God could be quenched. However, this was only after her encounter with Jesus and that wasn't easy for her. As Providence people, we all know that our desire for intimacy with God, for trusting God with all that we are, is a thirst that runs as deeply as our thirst for water on a hot day. I invite you today to reflect on: who brings you the good news? Is it someone whom you would not expect? Perhaps it is someone who, like the woman getting water at the well, shows you she has encountered Jesus because her life is hard and she can't take much for granted.

Today as we turn on the tap, I invite you to pray for those people who make us aware of Jesus and the living water he is offering us. And let's also remember to pray for those women and children as they carry the precious burden of water those 3.7 miles. May they be safe and get all the water home.

*From *Water For the Ages: 10 Facts On Women and Water*;
<https://waterfortheages.org/2009/12/02/10-facts-on-women-and-water/>

