

# From the PASTOR'S DESK

## *Thirsting for Living Water*

Unlike the unwillingly liberated slaves, who gave Moses such a hard time, the Samaritan woman at the well was ready for something new. The gift Jesus is offering is so new that the woman takes time to understand what He means by fresh water. At first, she thinks of it as an improved supply of what she has come to the well for. People not taught about Christ may be attracted to Him as an improved version of humanity. But that is not yet true faith in God's Son. The woman moves forward in her search when she discovers that this man knows about her former life but does not allow that knowledge to distract Him from His offer of living water. Neither does Jesus brush aside a distracting discussion of where God should be worshipped. He uses it to teach the woman more about the God she is searching for. Including the fact, that this God is searching for her to be a worshipper in spirit and in truth.

It is an amazing paradox that God who is the source of living water is thirsty for our faith. When Jesus says quite plainly of the expected Messiah *I am*, the woman doesn't immediately make a profession of faith. She does two things: she leaves her water jar, and she goes back to the city to call people to meet this extraordinary man. There is more to leaving the jar than just a practical move. She has encountered something – someone – who is offering a whole new way of life which gives her new priorities. She is in a hurry to let other people know about this possible Messiah.

*Come see a man who told me everything I have done*, she says to the people of the city. Some people believe in Him right away, while others come to believe in Him as they encounter Him during His stay with them. The Samaritan woman with the shady past gives testimony to the identity of Jesus. Many came to believe in Him because of her honesty and enthusiasm.

All of us have met Jesus at the well of Baptism. We are all called to do more than worship Him. We are called to change our priorities and find opportunities to make Him known to others – honestly and enthusiastically.

Fr. Hernan Cely  
Pastor

