



# Lasallian Reflections

No. 18e

Brothers of the Christian Schools

June 2005

## Those Who Search for Wells

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

**Opening Song** *[choose an appropriate song]*

**Gospel Reading** *from John 4:5-42*

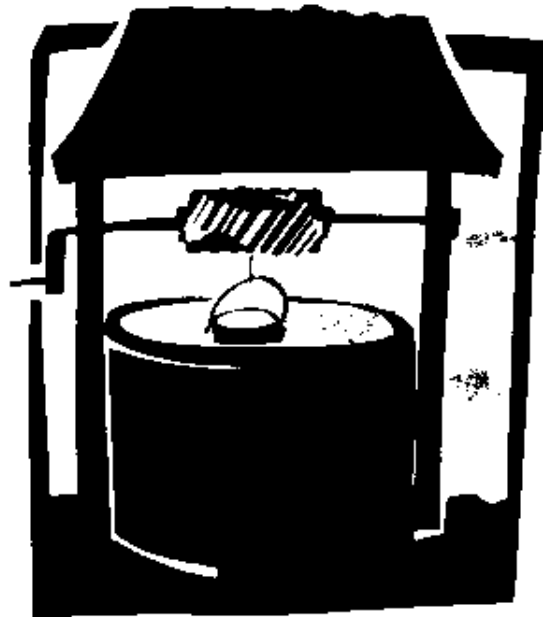
**Reader One:** Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water"... The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go call your husband and come back." The woman answered and said to him, "I do not have a husband."

Jesus answered her, "You are right in saying, 'I do not have a husband.' For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true"...

The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one speaking with you."

... The women left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, "Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Christ?"



**Pause for Quiet Reflection** *[about 2 to 3 minutes]*

**Our Response**      *Peter de Rosa*

**Side One:**      Father, you contain within yourself the waters of life,  
and everyone who thirsts  
must come to you to drink.

**Side Two:**      The Psalmist wrote passionately:  
“As the deer longs for running streams,  
so my soul is longing for you, my God.  
My soul is thirsting for God, the living God.  
When will I be allowed to see the face of God?”

**Side One:**      Again he says with equal ardour:  
“O God, you are my God, I long for you;  
my soul is thirsting for you.  
My body is panting for you  
as in a dry, weary land without water”...

**Side Two:**      On a hot midday at the well of Samaria,  
Jesus said to the woman drawing from the well:  
“Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again,  
but whoever drinks of the water I will give  
will never thirst.

**Side One:**      The water I will give  
will become in them  
a fountain of water, bubbling up to eternal life.”

**Side Two:**      Father, I have seen this water  
streaming from the pierced heart of Jesus crucified.  
Give me a drink of this precious water of the Spirit  
so I may never thirst again.

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

**Reader Two:** The Samaritan woman enters the scene as “a woman from Samaria” and leaves as someone very knowledgeable about the spring of “living water,” aware that the Father is looking for her to worship him. Her transformed identity turns her into an evangelizer who, by means of her testimony, persuades many people to approach Jesus and believe in him. She who was talking about “drawing water” as a task costing great effort now abandons her jug. Jesus has uncovered a gift for her, one that doesn't require anything in exchange, that is freely bestowed upon her.

**Reader Three:** If the Samaritan woman took us by the hand, what would she say to us, and where would she bring us? Surely she would invite us to accompany her to Jacob's well, and tell us how she arrived there with the empty jug of her needs and distracting cares, all of which proved to be no problem at all for the man who was waiting for her to accomplish his work in her. And she would tell us that if she learned anything from Jesus at that time, it is that he is not put off by our defensiveness and the things to which we cling.

**Reader Two:** Rather, as the Son always acting according to the example of his Father (cf. Jn 5:19), he searches for that “fracture” in our makeup from which our deepest yearnings emerge, as if he were convinced that only a greater desire can put lesser ones in their place.

**Reader Three:** If we asked her about how her desire was transformed, she would encourage us never to let anyone or anything snuff out or cast aside the desires we experienced when we first chose to follow

Jesus in the “religious life.” Rather, she would have us always keep them vivid and waiting to be fulfilled, because the best of our “humanness” and everything that allows us to remain open and filled with expectation from that “gift” that we never fully comprehend is hidden in them.

**Reader Two:** And concerning her experience as a missionary for the people in her village, the Samaritan woman might tell us about her strategy for leading them to Jesus. From him she had also learned how to become an expert in humanity, how to connect with dormant desires in the depth of each soul, and look for those “fractures” that enable grace to pass through, because that is where the Lord is already at work.

**Reader Three:** Only “those who search for wells,” who are capable of approaching and “getting in touch,” of spending time and getting to the bottom of things, can help others shed light on the spring of living water that they have within themselves.

**Reader Two:** The woman would try to convince us of the importance of our accompanying and sustaining each other in the faith, learning how to re-read life together and make it possible for each one to share the water of his or her experience. She might reveal how curious she is to know where we channel the torrents of our emotions, and whether or not our vows (as consecrated religious) are giving our deep-seated dynamism the apostolic orientation that it had in the life of Jesus.

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

- *Are we faithful to our own vocations as evangelizers, and by our testimony do we attempt to encourage others to approach Jesus and believe in him?*
- *What are the “fractures” in our own makeup... the “cracks” from which our deepest yearnings emerge?*
- *Are we still in touch with the desires we experienced when we first chose to follow Jesus in “religious life,” and are they still alive and longing to be satisfied?*

### **Closing Prayer**

**All:** Father,  
we have seen the water  
streaming from the pierced heart of Jesus crucified.

Give us a drink  
of this precious water of the Spirit  
so that we, too, may never thirst again.

Sustain in us, we pray,  
a deep-seated dynamism  
in our apostolic vowed living  
and an inquenchable thirst  
to lead others to Jesus,  
our brother and savior. 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)]