



## **Water: A Most Important Symbol**

During the warmer months of the year, water seems to take on great importance, especially for farmers and those of us who have gardens. Without water, there is no life. We have come to recognize it as one of the great symbols of Christianity. We find many Scriptural references to water and one story that highlights it is the one found in the Gospel: the story of the woman at the well (John 4:5-42). The story: Jesus is thirsty. A woman has access to the water in the well and He asks her for a drink. As He responds to her questions, He tells her that He has access to a source of life that will satisfy the deep thirst for life that is within her. Her thirst for life and for truth has led her into several intimate relationships and now she encounters a man who is addressing that thirst so deep within her. He is revealing to her the mystery of God's gift, the Spirit. If only she recognized God's gift and who it is asking her for a drink. She continues to ask questions, seeking to satisfy the deep thirst within her.

Jesus assures the woman that authentic worship is done in spirit and truth. We must learn to rely on God and realize that God wants to pour the Spirit into our hearts to guide our quest for truth. God thirsts for us to seek and find the truth. In our story, the woman leaves her water jar behind and eagerly shares the Good News of Jesus with her neighbors. They, in turn, will experience Jesus as the gift of God for their own lives. They no longer depend on her witness for they have had their own experience of Jesus.

Jesus tells His disciples that there is something more important than even food and drink if one is to successfully fulfill life's journey. Our Lord is nourished and sustained by doing the will of the One who sent Him and bringing the work to completion. In the Eucharist, Jesus offers Himself to us as spiritual food and drink so we can do the will of the One who has called us to life and bring our life's work to completion.

*Father David*