

## After the Heart of Jesus ...

*“Whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst;  
the water I shall give will become in him  
a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”*

Today's Gospel is filled with intriguing conversation of double meanings. The Samaritan woman talks at one level, and Jesus responds on a different level. She is at the well to address her physical thirsts; Jesus offers to quench her deeper thirsts with Living Water. When she returns to her village, she leaves her water jar behind because her real thirsts for compassion, understanding, and love have been satisfied in Jesus.



Our lives are often driven by our hungers and thirsts. We carry our own water jars around searching for that which will satisfy and quench our longings. The search may be long or short, but as it was for the Samaritan woman, so it is for us. The search ultimately ends with Jesus. Our real thirsts, too, are quenched by His Living Water.

Thank you to everyone who helped us embrace Christ's healing this past week at the Mission. The prayer was great, the music was exceptional, and the spirit was so uplifting. Many thank-you's are in order. First our thanks go to **Marj Collette** for her dedicated work in the planning and execution of the Mission and to her husband **Bruce Collette** for the extra effort in setting up the Church each night. Thank you also to **Tom Malouf** and **Joan Figley** and all of those who provided music, to the teens for their powerful drama at the Reconciliation service, to **Betty Maslankowski**, **Debbie Fager**, and **Jake Rau** for their witness talks, to **Father Mario** for celebrating a beautiful healing Mass, to the priests who came to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance, and to all those who provided hospitality each night. I heard so many positive comments about the Mission and its impact on people's lives. It is a special parish that can put on the kind of Mission we celebrated this past week.

The focus of our sacrificial giving or almsgiving this Lent is also healing. We are sponsoring projects in Guntur, India (the home of Father Charles Joseph, our recent associate pastor), within DuPage County, and in our sister diocese of Sucre, Bolivia. This week's bulletin includes a note from Father Charles explaining the needs that we hope to help with in India.

Also, this weekend university students who are going on the June mission to Sucre, Bolivia, will be here to talk a little about how our Lenten support will help them with their outreach to orphans and mentally handicapped children. It is always good to hear of young people taking time to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Mini first-aid kits are still available to remind us that as we receive healing, we need to share the gift of healing with others. Almsgiving gifts can be returned through Easter.

The Joliet Diocese Vocation Office is sponsoring a Jeremiah Day on Saturday, March 1, at Mundelein Seminary, in Mundelein, for boys in 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> grades to learn more about priesthood and life in the seminary. Parents are welcome to accompany their sons in seeing what the seminary is like. There is also a similar event for girls in 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> grade sponsored by the Vocation Office and religious communities of women in this area. The Marian Day will be held at Loretta Convent, in Wheaton, also on Saturday, March 1. More information can be found at the vocation office website at [www.vocations.com](http://www.vocations.com) or by calling the vocation office at 815-834-4004.

May we continue to receive Jesus healing grace during Lent as he quenches our deepest thirsts. May we live ...

After the Heart of Jesus,  
**Father John**