

Entering Jesus' Desolation
"I thirst"
6th reflection, part 1

*After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the scripture), "I thirst."
John 19:28*

We now enter the last reflection of our Encounter, preparing our hearts for the climax of our retreat, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit tonight. This last reflection is the encounter of the spouses, Jesus, the Bridegroom, with each of us. It is the encounter of God's thirst with our thirst. This thirst is our encounter with Jesus' deepest longing for His bride and Jesus' encounter with our deepest longing.

We will begin this reflection of thirsts at the well, following the Gospel of John 4, Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman. Did you know that the well in the Old Testament signified marriage? "The well signifies the setting of marital arrangements. As the wives of Issac, Jacob, and Moses were first encountered at a well, so Jesus is the divine bridegroom in search of believers to be his covenant bride."¹

Jesus comes as the Bridegroom to the well at a very hot time of the day, the sixth hour, waiting for the Samaritan woman, longing for His beloved bride to refresh her and to quench her thirst. He entices her by speaking to her with respect, for Jewish men were not supposed to converse with women in public, much less a Samaritan, and asks her for a cup of water. Jesus thirsts to quench the thirst of this woman. He knows the thirst and longing of her wounded heart. Pope Benedict XVI wrote concerning what the Samaritan woman was looking for in those six men:

She thirsts for life itself and that all the assuaging that she seeks and finds cannot slake this living, elemental thirst.... There comes to light the real dilemma, the deep-seated waywardness, of her existence: she is brought face to face with herself. What brings this about is an encounter with Jesus. From our own deep thirst for love, for salvation, for meaning, we give ourselves to the One who, in his thirst, asks us for a drink, just as he will thirst—thirst for our souls—from the cross.²

These words from Pope Benedict XVI bring back a memory of a time in my life that I have shared with you over the years we have been together, living the *Simple Path*. It was around 2003; I was living a beautiful marriage and had my eight children, yet, internally, I felt I was dying, a very slow death that reminded me of the quicksand in the movies of Tarzan. How could my life be so full on the outside but so void on the inside? This was the inner state I found myself in. My heart was deeply groaning for intimacy with God, but at the time, I did not know nor understand that inner thirst. Jesus approached me as He approached the woman at the well; on three occasions, I saw, internally, a hand holding a wooden Cross extended to me. It wasn't until the 3rd time that I extended my hand to grab the cross that, at that very moment, I felt I was pulled out of a dark hole, the quicksand. Then, in 2004, I visited Blessed Conchita's tomb and

¹ Ignatius Catholic Study Bible, RSV: Second Catholic Edition

² Magnificat, March 2026, Vol.27, No.13, third Sunday of Lent, Introduction

home. God was drawing me to His Cross to have a very personal encounter with the living God. As you all know, two years later, in 2006, I received Jesus' marriage proposal at Medjugorje: "*Will you be My victim soul?*" My "Yes" to the Lord began my years of betrothal, in which He brought me face-to-face with myself, with my many sin patterns, with my wounds and brokenness, to begin, like the Samaritan woman, to fill me with His living Water, the Holy Spirit. My thirst began to be quenched with the encounter of my Rabboni.

Years later, I learned from St. Augustin that this inner thirst was placed in my heart by God so that I would desire Him, for only He can quench this thirst. This thirst placed by God in the depths of our hearts is our deepest longing for union with God.

In the MOC cenacle this March 2026, we all had the honor of hearing the thirst in the depths of the heart of one of the MOC who led the rosary. All the MOC recognized her thirst, for it was our thirst also. She prayed with tears of profound longing to be one with her Bridegroom, Love crucified, no longer two but one. Her tears were our tears. Her thirst was her desire/ our desire to be totally His. Our thirst is to be empty solely to be filled to overflowing capacity by our Beloved, to be consumed by the fullness of the Holy Spirit. We were truly one heart praying because we were all praying from the same desire.

Jesus brings the Samaritan woman, the beloved daughter of the Father, face-to-face with herself. Isn't this what our Lord, our Spouse, has done with each of us through our personal encounter with Him? We are not different from the Samaritan woman. Maybe we have not had many husbands, but we have all sinned, and we are all very broken and wounded like her. The *Path* brings us to a personal encounter with Love crucified, and through this encounter, the Spirit draws us into ourselves to encounter our brokenness, our emptiness, our deepest longings, our woundedness, our unmet needs and desires, our sins, and He offers us Living Water. He begins to quench our thirst for Love as He forgives us, cleanses us, and draws us ever closer into His embrace, thus filling with Love, the deepest thirst of our hearts.

The theme of Jesus' thirst for us has been in His messages to us from the beginning. As early as 2007, He spoke to my heart of His thirst. He said:

I thirst! I thirst for souls to love Me and console Me on the Cross."

I said, "How can I console you? I can't reach you on the Cross?"

Jesus: *I am lifting you up to be with Me. It is through the Cross that we will be united.*

Suffering will become your greatest desire and joy because you will be quenching My thirst. 8/30/07

As I now ponder this message, 19 years after I received it, I see the beautiful journey He has taken me through, the journey of His thirst and my thirst being quenched by Love and consumed in Love. Jesus knew that my thirst and yours could only be quenched by becoming one with Love crucified. Now, 20 years later, after my call to be His victim soul, my desire, my thirst, has changed from being centered on me to being fully centered on Him. My greater thirst now is to quench His thirst. This has been the fruit of God's *Simple Path*.

There has been a beautiful progression in Jesus' messages that guide us toward union with Him. The Lord began to teach us how to suffer all with Him, and in this way, He was teaching us how to quench His thirst. He said in 2011:

Enter the furnace of My love through the passage of choosing to suffer all with Me in the hiddenness of your lives. My Heart thirsts for such love. 7/1/11

Then on the day of our LC anniversary, March 11th, 2012, Jesus drew us deeper into Himself and invited us to listen to His groans, the thirst of His Sacred Heart:

Look at the God Who loves you nailed to the Cross. See My tears as I look down upon every son and daughter who has not come to Me to gaze at Love.

*Can you hear My groans that come forth from the depth of My crucified Heart? The groans of My agony of love. **Listen to My groans of love.***

I thirst for you to quench My thirst with your kiss of love, your kiss of gratitude, your kiss of purity, your kiss of sorrow, your kiss of desire to be ONE with Me, suffering in love with Me.

From the words of our Lord in this message came a deeper intimacy with Him. Now, after every Holy Communion, I give Jesus my kiss of love, gratitude, purity, sorrow, and desire to be one with Him. He was, and is, teaching us how to live spousal intimacy with Him in the Eucharist.

Then, a few months later in 2012, Jesus gave us a passionate message describing in detail His thirst:

My daughter, you will satisfy My thirst for your love as My spouse as you lay down your life for the mission I have placed in your heart. This mission is My love for humanity, for each of you. This mission is My thirst in the depth of My Sacred Heart for unity in Love. That is unity in the love of the Most Holy Trinity. The Holy Spirit consumed in My Heart is the thirst of the Father for each of you. This thirst of love moves Me to pour out My precious Blood for you so that your thirst for love can be quenched. But I continue to thirst and seek souls to quench My thirst for love. My Mother brings you to My crucified feet to give Me your kiss of repentance so that the eyes of your soul can be opened, and you can see and taste through the gaze of My crucified eyes My love for you. My thirst for your love is quenched when I look down from My glorious Cross and see you, My beloved sons and daughters, dressed in the white garment of purity, wearing My crown of thorns, and covered in the radiance of My Blood. Then, My thirst is quenched. 6/12/12

Have you ever thought or contemplated that the mission the Lord has given us IS His thirst for humanity, for each of us? Take the time to contemplate this deeply in your time of silence before the Blessed Sacrament. There is so much in this message for us to contemplate for the rest of our lives. The Holy Spirit consumed in the Heart of Jesus is the thirst of Abba for you and me. Wow! It was Jesus' thirst for you and me that moved Him to pour Himself out on the Cross so that our thirst could be quenched. To ponder these words from the Bridegroom is to come to know and

experience the Heart of Christ intimately, and through Him, the Heart of our Father. Then He explains to us that Mary brings us to the foot of the Cross to give Him our kiss of repentance. This is the first kiss we give God, our kiss of repentance, for without this kiss, we can not become one with God. Jesus receives the kiss of repentance every time we go to confession, and every time we say “I am sorry” to those we have hurt. The Lord ends this beautiful message by letting us know when His thirst is quenched by us— when we each have become the image and likeness of Love crucified.

The theme of God’s thirst is essential to our identity and mission. His cry to us, ***Bring Me victim souls***, is His thirst. He said to us in 2014, *This is why I plead with the thirst of God for victim souls, for it is only My victim souls that abandon themselves completely to Me that can be made a new creation in the image and likeness of God. 12/17/14*

- Do you, MOC and MC, have the thirst of our Lord for victim souls in your heart and soul?

The fire of the Holy Spirit is the one who places this thirst of God in our hearts. Only by acquiring this thirst, the deepest clamor of the Heart of our Love crucified for victim souls, can we live our identity and fulfill the mission to bring Him victim souls.

- Individually and as a community, how are we responding to satiate the thirst of our Lord?