

March 7, 2010

Third Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Gospel Reading: John 4:5-42

Homilist: Father Joe Pemberton

The story of the woman at the well is the longest conversation that Jesus has in scripture with any one person. It's a marvelous dialogue between the two and out of that conversation Jesus transforms her life. In just a few moments she moves from being a public sinner to becoming a disciple of Christ; a witness of the gospel. It's a story about our own journey of faith, our own conversion and what Christ can do to us, the human heart, even in just a few moments as we encounter the power of His grace. We thirst for the living God and Jesus, in today's gospel, gave the waters of everlasting life to this woman because He was the waters of everlasting life. He said that if you drink from me you will never thirst again.

Everything we do at Holy Family is to connect us to that reality. All that we are as a parish community is to draw each of us more deeply into God and to recognize who it is we thirst for. We especially encounter this in the ministries of our parish. All the ministries that we do here, all the works of so many men and women and boys and girls is a process of drawing this community of almost 2000 families more deeply in love with Christ. We recognize that Christ is the one we come to drink from for He alone gives us the waters of everlasting life.

Today we are celebrating the ministries of our parish community through the stewardship of time and talent, our stewardship fair, that is going on in the Family Life Center after all the Masses this weekend, an opportunity for us to rejoice not only in the ministries but in all the men and women, boys and girls who are so actively involved in this faith community.

This weekend at each of our Masses I've invited one of our parishioners to speak to you for just a few moments and to share with you how she lives out her call of time and talent in this community and, hopefully, to allow her message to be a sign of encouragement and inspiration to all of us as we are called by God to be actively involved in our local parish community. It is my privilege to welcome Diana Getchell.

Ms. Diana Getchell:

Thank you, Father Joe.

Twenty-one years ago this month in this sanctuary I made my profession of faith, was confirmed and received the Eucharist for the very first time. I had just completed a full year in the RCIA process and that was a very exciting time for me, as you can imagine. However, it was just the beginning. Near the end of the RCIA process the team may ask you where you want to serve in the community, where you want to go to use your talent. Well, I told them I didn't think I had any talent but I would like to stay and serve on the

RCIA team. For some reason they let me stay and twenty-one years later I'm still a member of the RCIA team, a ministry that's very close to my heart.

Over the years God has nudged me into other ministries here at Holy Family, in the Diocese of Fort Worth and most recently in the larger community through West Aid.

The experience of serving on these ministries has been a very fulfilling one for me. First, I have learned so very much about our beautiful and rich Catholic faith and traditions. Second, I have expanded and grown spiritually both in my faith life and in my prayer life. Third, I have made so many friends through the years, people that have enriched my life in so many, many ways. Most of all and most importantly I feel I have grown closer to God through my service. I have a sense of satisfaction knowing that in some very small way I am helping my community, I'm contributing here at Holy Family and in the larger community.

This weekend, as you've heard, Holy Family is holding the annual time and talent stewardship fair, the festival of gifts. I invite you, after this Mass, to go to Scantlin Hall and to talk to the men and women who serve in these ministries. Holy Family is blessed to have so many, many ministries and I invite you to go and talk to the men and women. I encourage you to learn about

these ministries and to think and to pray about where you might serve, where you might use your talent.

You might be saying like I did: I don't think I have any talent. My friends, God blesses each one of us with gifts and I assure you that if you give your time God will reveal your gifts to you. Come and see how you can help build God's kingdom.

In addition to the stewardship fair this weekend Holy Family is very happy to have the Holy Family Nurse Ministry and Harris Methodist Hospital doing a health fair. They have joined forces and they have over a dozen booths and health screening. I invite you to visit the health fair this weekend. Second, is a book sale that is being done presented by the Catholic Renewal Center. As most of you know a visit to the book center at the Catholic Renewal Center is a very exciting event. It's a very special place so I invite you also to go there.

So, please come, take advantage of all these exciting opportunities this weekend after this Mass; our stewardship fair, our health fair and the CRC book fair.

Thank you.