

Deacon Tony's Homily for the First Scrutiny

3rd Sunday in Lent

PREPARATION FOR BAPTISM

Baptism is the first sacraments of initiation along with Confirmation and Holy Communion. It is the gateway to our life in the Spirit.

A sacrament is an "OUTWARD SIGN, INSTITUDED BY CHRIST TO GIVE GRACE". we know that there is a transmission of grace in order to bring about the renewal of our hearts.

It's a gift because it is conferred on those who bring nothing of their own to the ceremony but leave with a tremendous opportunity to share their grace gift with others. This is known as EVANGELIZATION and it is the call today, as it has been since the time of Jesus, to make a difference in lives around us.

WATER is the symbol of God's flowing grace that we all thirst for. We read in Exodus how the people grumbled to Moses about their thirst which wasn't being satisfied. It affected their spiritual lives as they forgot the great gift of freedom from slavery in Egypt. Do we ever forget all the blessings that we have received to grumble about what we don't have.

The Samaritan woman at the well is a very graphic picture of metanoia in a life gone wrong.

This Samaritan woman was responsible for providing water for her family every day. She chose to get water in the middle of day because she was shunned from her townspeople; (who would usually wait until the sun went down to get water) It was probably because of her many broken marriages that she was avoided. Who knows, maybe the women were afraid of losing their husbands to her.

Well Jesus explained the difference of H₂O and spiritual water to the woman and in the process, got around to her basic problem of her ability to have a giving relationship.

This hit home for her and the Lord freed her heart to have a complete turnaround.

The first thing she did was evangelize her townspeople and invited them to come and hear this great healer. They came on the word of the women and invited Him to stay longer.

After Jesus stayed, they were able to say:

WE NO LONGER BELIEVE BECAUSE OF YOUR WORD; FOR WE HAVE HEARD FOR OURSELVES AND WE KNOW THAT THIS IS TRULY THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.

If you invite someone for a deeper walk with Jesus and they tell you that they have come to believe that He is truly the Savior of the world, your blessings will be numerous.