

Homes of Light 7

Caring for Life

Generating New Life

**3. A spirituality that lights up our days – 3 of 4**

In the meeting between Jesus and the Samaritan woman, a beautiful story to be meditated on at depth, the woman told Jesus that he had no bucket and the well was deep, and asked, “*Where do you get that living water*? (Jn 4:11). Jesus said to her, “*Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life*” (Jn 4:13-14). The woman said to him, “*Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty* …” (Jn 4:15).

I ask myself what I am thirsty for. Am I truly thirsty? When I feel thirsty, do I look for living water to drink? Among all the many choices that are before us every day – sometimes to the point of being snowed under– and leading such fast-paced lives, I wonder if maybe we are losing our capacity to feel thirsty. Or rather, when we are aware of this deep thirst, we try to satisfy it by filling ourselves up with things, activities or experiences that give the appearance of quenching it but leave us thirsty nonetheless.

During the retreat he preached to Pope Francis and the Roman Curia in 2018, Mons. Tolentino spoke about thirst. He pointed out that, on the physical level, we get thirsty and we hardly register the fact. And that, in general, we drink less than we should. Similarly, on the spiritual level, it is worthwhile asking ourselves if we recognise the thirst which exists in us. Are we aware of the dehydration that we are imposing on ourselves, whether we know it or not? Do we take time to decode the state of our thirst? He went on to say, “It is not easy to recognise that you are thirsty, since thirst is a pain that we discover little by little inside ourselves, behind all the habitual self-defensive, emotionless and idealised stories we tell ourselves; it is a pain from the past which resurfaces, without our knowing exactly how, and which we are afraid will sap our strength; they are wounds that we are reluctant to face, let alone accept with confidence”.

We begin by feeling a thirst for God. “We are deficient beings, made with infinite longings. God alone can bridge this gap that is in all of us and that this same God opened up in making us in God’s own image. We are thirsty for the original Reign of God to be restored in us. God alone can satisfy what our eyes long to see, our ears hear, our skin touch, our palate taste, since we are made in the image of God. This explains our thirst for God, our desire for the One thing necessary, our yearning to be intoxicated with the divine.”

The reflection from Homes of Light, Br Ernesto Sánchez Barba (Superior General).

<https://champagnat.org/en/circulares/homes-of-light-caring-for-life-generating-new-life/>

**Prayer**

Lord Jesus,

like Mary at Cana, we feel challenged

by the needs of the world around us.

You call us to be aware of the signs of the times,

to face current challenges,

without falling into the temptation

of “answering questions that no one is asking anymore”.

You call us to be a prophetic reminder

of the common dignity

and fundamental equality of the entire People of God.

You call us to move away from a culture

shaped by “ego-s”

and to adopt a culture shaped by “eco-s”

(ecology, ecosystems, an economy of solidarity, …).

You call us to be agents of change, bridge-builders,
messengers of peace, transforming the lives of young people through an education which integrates awakening faith
and living by Gospel values. Amen.

Mary, our Good Mother, pray for us.

St Joseph, pray for us.

St Marcellin Champagnat, pray for us.

**Champagnat Marist Spirituality and Charism:**

**God’s Presence and Love ✠ Trust in God ✠ Love of Jesus and His Gospel**

**Presence ✠ Simplicity ✠ Family Spirit ✠ Love of Work**

**In the Way of Mary**