

FROM THE PASTOR'S PRINTER

THE THIRSTY, THE BLIND AND THE DEAD ~ Now that I have your attention... On the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent, the readings for Year A of the Lectionary focus on the images of salvation as they are revealed in the celebration of baptism: water, through the woman at the well; light, through the blind man's cure; and life, through the raising of Lazarus. Each story deals with change to the core of the Main character's being. Each of the central characters in some way are meant to represent each of us, to bring us to look at our life in Christ in light of their life in Christ. But the other characters, too, are meant for our reflection as well. How light we be like them in their goodness or sinfulness? I invite you to read the Gospel, maybe several times, in the week following its proclamation at Mass, and sit, kneel, stand or walk in silence for about ten to fifteen minutes. The passages can be found on page 2 of the bulletin or online at usccb.org/readings; just click on the calendar.

- ✘ *Begin by asking the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to Him.*
- ✘ Then you could do several things:
- + *Imagine that you are there witnessing the story unfold, or maybe you are one of the characters in the story.*

OR

- + *Ask you ask yourself any of the following questions:*
 - What words, images, characters or actions struck me in the reading?
 - Who do I think I relate to most in the reading? (It may even be Jesus whom you relate to!)
 - What brings me joy in the story? What makes me uncomfortable in the story?
 - What might be something new I get from the story? What don't I understand in the story?
- ✘ *In the last few minutes, ask yourself:*
 - Is God calling me to see or do things differently in light of the reading and reflection?
- ✘ *Finally, thank God for the time He has spent with you.*

Don't worry if you find yourself distracted or find it hard to focus, or that "nothing seemed to happen" during this time. The Lord can speak through the distraction of our lives because we are trying to listen. God may not speak at this time of prayer, but later on the midst of our everyday activity. A blessed week ahead. – *Fr. Jeff*