

3rd Sunday in Lent
(Exodus 17.3-7, Romans 5.1-2,5-8, John 4.5-42)

THEME: Call On Jesus *The Life Giving Water!*

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ: The readings of this third Sunday of Lent are reminding us that sometimes things can be difficult along the way, as we follow God. But as we realize that our God is always with us, we shall pass through all these moments of difficulties in our lives with joy. This was the situation the Israelites encountered as they journeyed to the promise land.

In our lives, sometimes these types of challenges come up and we tend to ask certain questions, like--Where is God? Are we sure God is still with us? Or the effects of natural disasters, like the case of Japan. But in the midst of all these may we always realize that God is still there for us, to care and provide for His children. When those moments arise, may we always remember to cry up to God for help, like Moses did in the first reading today, "The Lord said to Moses,strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." (Ex. 17:3-7)

The story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman from the gospel of today, assures again that Jesus is the *life-giving water*. Jesus told the woman, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him,, and he would have given your living water." (John4:5-42)

In our lives, most of the time, we have this fear to do charity or make donations, either to those in need or to the church. In our minds, this feeling might be-- why cannot God provide for everybody, why ask me to donate? Cannot God send money to the Church, since the church belongs to God? The answer to all these questions is that, God wants us to receive blessings from Him as we help others. God makes use of us to reveal His love and mercy. He wants us to be our brothers and sisters keepers. As we give a helping hand and all material gifts, God gives us in return His blessings. Let us remember Jesus' answer to the Samaritan woman, "...the water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." (Jn. 4:5-42)