

Homily
13th Sunday OT – A
Rev. Peter G. Jankowski
June 27-28, 2026

2 Kgs 4: 8-11, 14-16
Ps 89: 2-3, 16-17, 18-19
Rm 6: 3-4, 8-11
Mt 10: 37-42

Cool water to one faint from thirst is good news from a far country.
– Proverbs 25: 25

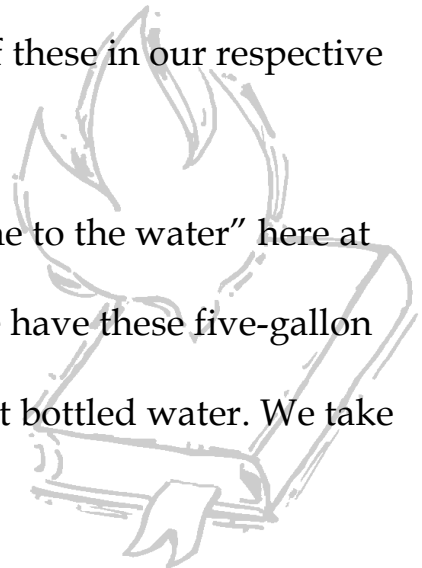


I buy this purified water
from Sam's Club. I use it at
the



Masses I celebrate and I let the kids have them
before the Mass or after the Mass. I use them when
somebody needs our bottles who is dehydrated or
too hot. We keep these bottles in our sacristy
refrigerator and we try to keep a couple cases of these in our respective
sacristies.

I was thinking about how many people “come to the water” here at
our parishes. In fact, it happens so often that we have these five-gallon
holy water containers, these fonts, where we put bottled water. We take



five-gallon bottles of purified water and we pour the water in our font containers at both parishes. All kinds of people will fill their own bottles, or vials, or whatever they bring and they will fill them with water.

This custom has become so prominent here at St. Patrick's that over at St. Anne's, I ended up buying a similar holy water container. Fr. Ron Neitzke from Herscher, Goodrich and Irwin gave me one for the back of St. Anne's Church. I even purchased a second reservoir to put in my private chapel in case that we need it. Outside our respective churches, we have outdoor fountains that I am asked to bless so that the faithful can fill their bottles with the blessed water in these fountains.

When I travelled to Lourdes, France, we purchased a two-gallon container to fill with water from Lourdes. After filling the bottle, we then we taped it up like it was a mummy to bring it back to the states, to distribute it to the needy.

On St. Anne's Day, we have these little bottles of blessed water that we distribute. A faithful Catholic named Marilyn Charba from Christendom College made these labels of St. Anne's Church that we

affixed on the bottles, to give them to people as a symbol of good news, as a symbol of hope that people did not have to thirst. Concerning the story of the woman in the well (John 4: 4-42), we read how Jesus asked this woman for a cup of water to drink and what he gives her in return is something far greater than that cup of water.

The whole idea of the cup of water analogy is we are supposed to be nourishing each other; we are supposed to be loving each other. We are supposed not to discriminate the other person is. Rather, we treat the other person, we feed the other and we give the other drink no matter what. That is the beauty of the priesthood, because all kinds of people, from all kinds of different ways of life, come for that cup of water, for that good news, for that word of encouragement.

I have had so many people who are friends and a lot of people who are enemies who have come to ask for help... and I am obligated to give it to them. We are kind to everyone, knowing full well that sometimes people in return can and will take advantage of you, as we do to God constantly. Some people approach me as a priest ask for things, me taking care of their needs and then some people never coming back

unless they need something more. The obligation on our end is to have what is called by St. Bonaventure that “fountain fullness,” that overflowing fountain that we keep giving to people because that is what God keeps giving to us.

God sets the example of how we are to love overflowingly and we are supposed live that way in God’s name for others. In our first reading, we read how God fed Elijah. God fed Elijah, God cared for Elijah and God spoke to Elijah. In response, Elijah gave back, just as Christ gives back by nourishing us as well.

The stories of Elijah and Christ set a theme for the gospel that we are obligated to follow if we wish to enter the kingdom of heaven. We also know that modeling what God did for is very hard to do, because there are a lot of people in this world who want something over and over again yet want to give nothing back in return.

I always believe in the win-win situations and try to live that way. You help others and others help you. If we live like this, then everybody wins, which is the whole point of our faith life. We do everything

together, we feed each other, we love each other and if we do so, great things can happen.

For this reason, we constantly have to keep filling up our water tanks with holy water over and over and over again. Over at St. Anne's, those little baptismal funds where people dip their hands to make the sign of the cross, to remind themselves of baptism, always go dry. People at St. Anne's, and certainly St. Patrick's, constantly are going to the water and seeking more. Our responsibility is to "fill up that tank," so to speak, to fill up people's lives with the word of God and to do this out of love, regardless of who that person is, to give them a sense of hope.

Does this be-attitude, this Christ-like lifestyle always work? Sad to say, this attitude does not work most of the time. For those who do, for those who accept that cup of water and understand what that cup of water means, when the people we serve come back to be fed not for the body but for the soul, then there is a great joy in our heart knowing that we have allowed God to work through us, to nourish someone else and hopefully to save a soul or two along the way.

When seeking this metaphorical and literal water of grace, oftentimes people have come to tell me all kinds of interesting stories about their lives, stories of struggles, stories of love. stories of hope, stories of desperation and they are always looking to be loved and to get that water of nourishment in their life. When we do this right, many people we serve know that their souls will never go thirsty as long as they are here. God continuously wants to feed us and continually wants to love us. The question is, do we come to the water? Do we come for this meal? Or do we depend on a world who can feed us for a day, but then turns their back on us?

This food, this water, leads us to eternal life, for this life in the world and the one yet to come. Come to the water; be refreshed, knowing that what we provide is good news and good love. What do they say in the 25th Chapter of Proverbs? *Cool water to one faint from thirst is good news from a far country.* Welcome to God's house in God's country. Many have traveled here to be with you and we are not going away.

“Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as scripture says: ‘Rivers of living water* will flow from within

him''' (John 7: 37-38). Come and receive God's love, so that you may learn the lesson that God will never abandon you. Let us offer that cup of cold water from our refrigerators or our baptismal tanks to the people that we meet. This is our prayer.