

*Lent...Path of conversion... "Time for conversion and solidarity" Pope Francis*

*Exodus 17:3-7; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42*

«Jesus answered her: 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 you living water”.



After the episode of Jesus' temptations in the desert, presented in the Gospel of the first Sunday of Lent, and the transfiguration on the second Sunday, today we begin the baptismal passages that will remain until the fifth Sunday. Today's readings focus on the symbolism of water. The first reading, from the book of Exodus, reminds us of the episode of the people of Israel when it murmured against the Lord and the Lord, through Moses, brought forth water from the rock. St Paul explains that the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us, and that Jesus will confirm to us that the true living water, that of the Holy Spirit, is the only water that can quench our thirst.

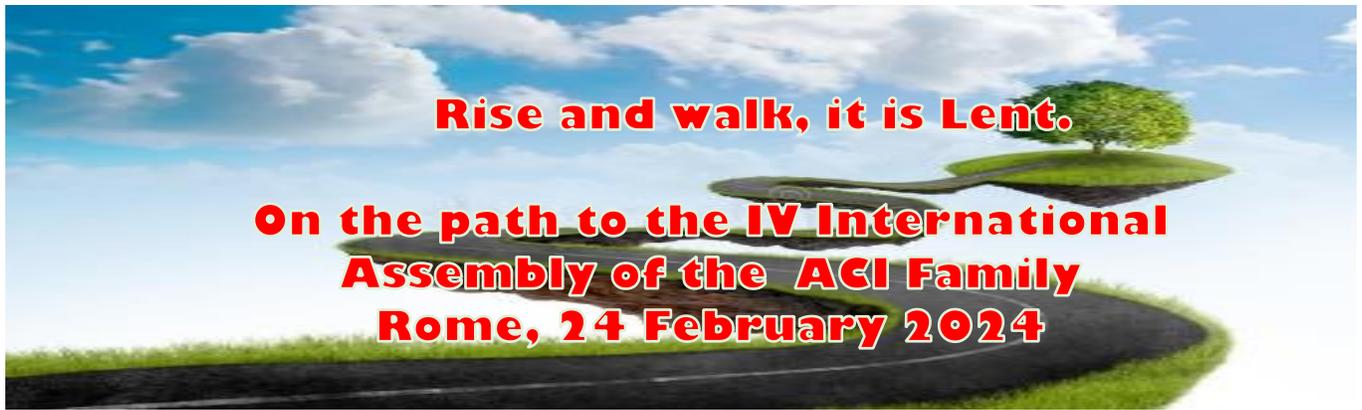
Dear friends of the ACI Family, dear Sisters,

*" When I'm upset I throw myself into God's arms; I abandon myself to Him and I try to serve Him with greater faithfulness", Saint Raphaela*

After this encounter with the Messiah, the woman puts down her pitcher and goes forth to tell the news to her people. She leaves her former life and becomes an instrument for many Samaritans to encounter the Messiah. Today, Jesus also offers us the opportunity to go deeper into the well, to stop seeking satisfaction in sin, to let go of our pitcher and go to the true source, which will quench our thirst forever.

The time at which this meeting takes place is pertinent: the sixth hour, at midday. In other words, before reaching the seventh hour. And if the seventh hour is perfection, this woman in the Gospel makes that leap that we too must make now, to move on to the seventh hour, to make our exodus from the slavery of sin to the freedom of grace of the children of God. And what better time than now, during Lent, to be able to live fully the great Feast of Easter with Christ.

We are called, as Aci Family, to drink of the life-giving water that urges us to be missionaries of the Good News of Jesus.



In friendship,

Claudia Iwanica, Isabel Branco, Juan Jairo Laverde, Vanessa Amarelle,

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International Commission of the ACI Family

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