*Host or designated reader/leader begins the Upper Room prayer hour by reading this message from Fr. David:*

 **Message for March 2019**

Dear Friends in Christ;

We depart from the titles of Jesus to focus on another aspect of Jesus’ definition (of self) or exposition or revelation of who he is as we hear Jesus say from the Cross “I THIRST!” Using St. Theresa of Kolkata’s meditation on His words from the Wood of the Cross (Upper Room) participants are asked to reflect together (this Lenten Season) on how Jesus “Thirsts” for you. How this thirst defines His mission. How His mission defines the will of God for us all. This is how the word “thirst” is defined:

**Thirst** ([noun](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/noun))

Definition of thirst

(Entry 1 of 2)

1a:a sensation of dryness in the mouth and throat associated with a desire for liquids also:the bodily condition (as of dehydration) that induces this sensation

b:a desire or need to drink

2:an ardent desire:[craving](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/craving), [longing](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/longing) a thirst for success

**Thirst** ([verb](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/verb))

thirsted; thirsting; thirsts

Definition of thirst (Entry 2 of 2)

[intransitive verb](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/intransitive)

1:to feel [thirsty](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/thirsty) **:** suffer thirst

2:to crave vehemently and urgently thirsted for revenge; thirsting after justice

Now let us begin to understand how Jesus defines His Thirst through the composition of Mother Theresa.

In Christ

Fr. David

*Open with Sign of Cross and then this prayer:*

**Prayer to the Holy Spirit**

L: **Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth Your Spirit, O Lord, and they shall be created.**

R: And You shall renew the face of the earth

L: **Let us pray – God our Father, pour out the gifts of your Holy Spirit on the world. You sent the Spirit on Your Church to begin the teaching of the Gospel; now let the Spirit continue to work in the world through the hearts of all who believe. Through Christ our Lord.**

R: Amen

L: **You, O lord, will open my lips.**

R: And my tongue shall announce Your praise.

L: **Incline unto my aid, O God.**

R: O Lord, make haste to help me.

L: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit**.

R: As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen

**Lesson is as follows: read St. Theresa of Kolkata’s meditation. You will find highlighted portions that will be followed directly by an italicized question. The question is my text as is the highlighting. Please reflect upon the questions and answer in your group setting.**

**I Thirst for You**

**"Behold, I stand at the door and knock… (Rev. 3, 20)**

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It is true. I stand at the door of your heart, day and night. 1) *Remember the artist’s depiction of Jesus standing at the door and there’s no handle on his side of the door? What truth does this communicate about our relationship with Jesus?* Even when you are not listening, even when you doubt it could be Me, I am there. I await even the smallest sign of your response, even the least whispered invitation that will allow Me to enter.

And I want you to know that whenever you invite Me, I do come – always, without fail. Silent and unseen 2) *How is His presence to us unseen or silent?*  I come, but with infinite power and love, and bringing the many gifts of My Spirit. I come with My mercy, with My desire to forgive and heal you, and with a love for you beyond your comprehension – a love every bit as great as the love I have received from the Father ("As much as the Father has loved me, I have loved you…" (Jn. 15:10) I come - longing to console you and give you strength, to lift you up and bind all your wounds. I bring you My light, to dispel your darkness and all your doubts. I come with My power, that I might carry you and all your burdens; with My grace, to touch your heart and transform your life; and My peace I give to still your soul.

I know you through and through. I know everything about you. The very hairs of your head I have numbered. Nothing in your life is unimportant to Me. I have followed you through the years, and I have always loved you – even in your wanderings. I know every one of your problems. I know your needs and your worries. And yes, I know all your sins. But I tell you again that I love you – not for what you have or haven’t done – I love you for you, for the beauty and dignity My Father gave you by creating you in His own image. 3) *Do you think of yourself as beautiful? How can we share the dignity of our creation with others?* It is a dignity you have often forgotten, a beauty you have tarnished by sin. But I love you as you are, and I have shed My Blood to win you back. If you only ask Me with faith, My grace will touch all that needs changing in your life, and I will give you the strength to free yourself from sin and all its destructive power.

I know what is in your heart – I know your loneliness and all your hurts – the rejections, the judgments, the humiliations, 4) *Share a story of someone in your life* ***NOW/TODAY*** *who may be suffering one of these things.*  I carried it all before you. And I carried it all for you, so you might share My strength and victory. I know especially your need for love – how you are thirsting to be loved and cherished. But how often have you thirsted in vain, by seeking that love selfishly, striving to fill the emptiness inside you with passing pleasures – with the even greater emptiness of sin. Do you thirst for love? "Come to Me all you who thirst…" (Jn. 7: 37). I will satisfy you and fill you. Do you thirst to be cherished? I cherish you more than you can imagine – to the point of dying on a cross for you.

I Thirst for You. Yes, that is the only way to even begin to describe My love for you. I THIRST FOR YOU. I thirst to love you and to be loved by you – that is how precious you are to Me. I THIRST FOR YOU. Come to Me, and I will fill your heart and heal your wounds. I will make you a new creation, and give you peace, even in all your trials I THIRST FOR YOU. You must never doubt My mercy, My acceptance of you, My desire to forgive, My longing to bless you and live My life in you.5) *How does Jesus “live His life in us”?* I THIRST FOR YOU. If you feel unimportant in the eyes of the world, that matters not at all. For Me, there is no one any more important in the entire world than you. I THIRST FOR YOU. Open to Me, come to Me, thirst for Me, give me your life – and I will prove to you how important you are to My Heart.

Don’t you realize that My Father already has a perfect plan to transform your life, beginning from this moment? Trust in Me. 6) *What does trust come from and what does it lead to in relationships.*  Ask Me every day to enter and take charge of your life. – And I will. I promise you before My Father in heaven that I will work miracles in your life. Why would I do this? Because I THIRST FOR YOU. All I ask of you is that you entrust yourself to Me completely. I will do all the rest.

Even now I behold the place My Father has prepared for you in My Kingdom. Remember that you are a pilgrim in this life, on a journey home. Sin can never satisfy you, or bring the peace you seek. All that you have sought outside of Me has only left you more empty, so do not cling to the things of this life. Above all, do not run from Me when you fall. Come to Me without delay. When you give Me your sins, you gave Me the joy of being your Savior. There is nothing I cannot forgive and heal; so come now, and unburden your soul. 7) *What role does confession play in your life? Even if you have the smallest of sins does confession matter?*

No matter how far you may wander, no matter how often you forget Me, no matter how many crosses you may bear in this life; there is one thing I want you to always remember, one thing that will never change. I THIRST FOR YOU – just as you are. You don’t need to change to believe in My love, for it will be your belief in My love that will change you. 8) *Does this work in human relationships too? Discuss how someone in your life (and their love for you changed your life).* You forget Me, and yet I am seeking you every moment of the day – standing at the door of your heart and knocking. Do you find this hard to believe? Then look at the cross, look at My Heart that was pierced for you. Have you not understood My cross? Then listen again to the words I spoke there – for they tell you clearly why I endured all this for you: "I THIRST…"(Jn 19: 28). Yes, I thirst for you – as the rest of the psalm – verse I was praying says of Me: "I looked for love, and I found none…" (Ps. 69: 20). All your life I have been looking for your love – I have never stopped seeking to love you and be loved by you. You have tried many other things in your search for happiness; why not try opening your heart to Me, right now, more than you ever have before. *9) All things can be good and all things can turn into an evil. In your search for happiness what things have led you to happiness and what things have caused pain?*

Whenever you do open the door of your heart, whenever you come close enough, you will hear Me say to you again and again, not in mere human words but in spirit. "No matter what you have done, I love you for your own sake Come to Me with your misery and your sins, with your troubles and needs, and with all your longing to be loved. I stand at the door of your heart and knock. Open to Me, for I THIRST FOR YOU…"

**For prayer please say a chaplet of Divine Mercy together. Next month back to the titles of Jesus for our Upper Room topic.**