



In Pope Francis' encyclical letter, *Laudato Si*, he reminds us that we have a fundamental right to access clean water. On March 22nd we marked *World Water Day* with many people examining their daily water usage and still others gathering to bring public awareness to our water crises. We were reminded that water is essential for life, vital for the balance of ecosystems and human, animal and plant survival. We have an incredible responsibility to care for our water sources and to not pollute or contaminate.

We are aware that more of our planet is becoming arid with extended periods of drought. More and more suffering is being inflicted because of the increasing lack of fresh water. The people in poor, drought-stricken areas are crying out for us all to see their suffering and to be agents of change. Remedies are urgently needed to counteract water shortages and pollution. Our oceans are becoming garbage bins filled with plastic and other harmful materials. Sea life is in jeopardy of diseases and even extinction. Education and investment in today and in our future are essential to making everyone aware and more protective of our environmental resources.

Certain countries are particularly affected with grave injustices against the poor and most vulnerable. No one on this God-given planet can be left out of the care of the earth and our most essential gift – **WATER**.

A number of deeply concerned individuals and groups are focusing this year on "Care of our Common Home". The following are some concrete suggestions from the Ontario, Canada Catholic Women's League:

- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth (estimated savings of 500 litres per person per month).
- Operate dishwasher and washing machine only when full (each cycle uses 15 litres).
- Fix a leaky faucet (estimated savings 100 litres per week with a steady run).
- Shorten # of minutes for each shower (estimated savings 8 litres per minute).
- Fill a pitcher of water and store in fridge so you do not have to run water to fill a cup of cold water (6 litres per minute of running water).

- If washing dishes, put water in the sink rather than letting the tap run while washing (6 litres per minute of running water).
- Use biodegradable dish soap and then use dishwater for watering plants after washing dishes (average 3 litres per washing).
- Collect rain water and/or melted snow to water plants (average 1 litre per watering).
- Replace toilet with high efficiency low flush toilet (estimated saving of 30 litres per day per person).
- No dumping of garbage into our water resources.
- What other suggestions might you make to preserve our precious water?

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. (Genesis 1- 2, 10)

Thank you for taking our water crises seriously. Please share your concerns with others, especially with organizations and government bodies who can enact laws and policies to protect our water resources. Our positive actions can save lives!

Sr. Teresa Morrison, CPS

Save The Water

