

Each week during the Season of Creation we have reflected on an element of creation, Earth, Air and Fire. Now we turn to Water. "Access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights. Our world has a grave social debt toward the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to life consistent with their inalienable dignity." Laudato Si 30



The United Nations warns that water use is growing at twice the rate of population growth. Unless this trend is reversed, two-thirds of the global population will face water "stress" by 2025. Sustainable use of water and sharing it fairly are critical challenges of the 21st century.

Some Facts About Water

- **100 million families are stuck in a cycle of poverty and disease because they don't have access to safe water.**
- **More people die from unsafe water than from all forms of violence, including war.**
- **2.4 billion people, 1 in 3, lack access to a toilet.**
- **One pound of beef requires 1,799 gallons of water, including growing grain, and watering and processing; growing one pound of wheat requires 132 gallons.**
- **Water borne diseases kill more children under the age of five than malaria, measles, and HIV/Aids combined.**
- **Marine life all over the globe is harmed by plastic debris in waterways and the oceans.**
- **Today water is considered a peace and security issue for countries**



All life depends on this precious element. The human body is comprised of approximately 60% water. Water assists in digestion, absorption, circulation, and transportation of nutrients. Water also connects us to our baptism, and how through water we were initiated into our community of faith.

Pope Francis said, "Let us be renewed by God's mercy and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation, and make justice and peace flourish." Urbi et Orbi Easter 2013

- ❖ Stay informed about the world water situation.
- ❖ Be aware of water use.
- ❖ Avoid using bottled water; reduce the use of plastic.
- ❖ Eat less meat.
- ❖ Use our investments to influence corporations to limit pollution and overuse of water and to address issues of control and privatization.

(Some information taken from a flier of the Sisters of Charity.)

Song: **We Are One** <https://youtu.be/DHCnT5PT-ew>