



Water: A Gift to be Shared by All (JPIC)

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"Praise by you, my Lord, through Sister Water, who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste". (St. Francis of Assisi, Canticle of the Creatures)

For many of us, fresh water flows freely in our lakes, rivers, streams, and even from our faucets. Resting in the presence of plentiful natural water resources can lead us into contemplation and to gratitude for this marvelous gift. Water cools us, cleanses us, and quenches our thirst. Water is not only an object of wonder but an essential element for life. Without water we cannot survive.

In his encyclical, *On Care for Our Common Home*, Pope Francis states; "... 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." (LS,30) Yet, one in three people do not have access to safe drinking water and many have insufficient access to water for hand-washing and sanitation.

March 22nd is World Water Day. It is an annual UN observance highlighting the importance of freshwater and the need to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources and the availability of freshwater to all peoples.

So, think about your use of Sister Water, thank God for the blessing of water and then take action to eliminate wasting, and advocate for clean water for all peoples. Click [here](#) to visit the World Water Day website.