



MERCY EARTH CHALLENGE

“Our very bodies are made up of Earth’s elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.” (Laudato Si, #2)

Ponder Water as Sacred Gift

In Pope Francis’ message for the 2018 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, he again focuses on water as a precious resource and describes access to it as a human right.

Francis says: “Water invites us to reflect on our origins. The human body is mostly composed of water, and many civilizations throughout history arose near great rivers that marked their identity. In an evocative image, the beginning of the book of Genesis states that, in the beginning, the spirit of the Creator ‘swept over the face of the waters (1:2).’” He continues asking us to consider the fundamental role of water in creation and in human development and to “give thanks to God for ‘Sister Water,’ simple and useful for life like nothing else on our planet.”

We acknowledge that water is sacred and sacramental and totally essential for life. Yet it is something we tend to take for granted.

This week, to supplement the daily Water: Sacred Gift calendar, we invite you to:

- Enjoy a [reflection by Carolyn McWatters, RSM](#), written for World Water Day (March 2020).

- Experience the video [“I Am Water”](#) (1.42 minutes). You can use the auto-translate function under “settings” to view Spanish subtitles.
- Get a snapshot of the impact of your daily lifestyle. [Compare how much water is used](#) to make a variety of products so that you can choose to reduce your water footprint. This is available only in English.