

Prayer to Care for Our Common Home

Father of all,
Creator and ruler of the universe,
You entrusted your world to us as a gift.
Help us to care for it and all people,
that we may live in right relationship--
with You,
with ourselves,
with one another,
and with creation.

Christ our Lord, both divine and human,
You lived among us and died for our sins.
Help us to imitate your love for the human family
by recognizing that we are all connected—
to our brothers and sisters around the world,
to those in poverty impacted by environmental devastation,
and to future generations.

Holy Spirit, giver of wisdom and love,
You breathe life in us and guide us.
Help us to live according to your vision,
stirring to action the hearts of all—
individuals and families, communities of faith,
and civil and political leaders.

Triune God, help us to hear the cry of those in poverty, and the cry of the earth, so that we may together care for our common home. Amen.

~ The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops based on
Pope Francis' *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*.



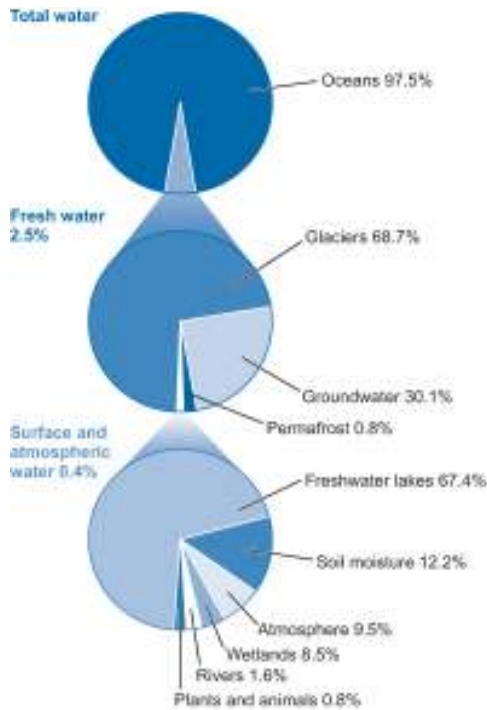
***“Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water,
who is very useful to us,
and humble and precious and pure.”***

~ From the Canticle of Creation

“Water is the driving force of all nature.”

~ Leonardo da Vinci





Even though our planet is 70% water, only a small percentage of that is fresh water. The rest is salt water which cannot be used. The 2.5% of fresh water exists mostly as ice or permanent snow cover. We have only 1/3 of that percentage available for use. According to some predictions, by the year 2025 around 1.8 billion people will have no access to drinking water.

Everything we do requires water, for drinking, washing, growing food, and for industry, construction and manufacturing. With more than 7.5 billion people on the planet, and the population projected to top 10 billion by 2050, the situation is set to grow more urgent.

Water seems the most renewable of all the Earth's resources. It falls from the sky as rain, it surrounds us in the oceans that cover nearly three-quarters of the planet's surface, and in the polar ice caps and mountain glaciers. It is the source of life on Earth.



Water resources face a host of serious threats, all caused primarily by human activity. They include pollution, climate change, urban growth, and landscape changes such as deforestation. Each of them has its own specific impact, usually directly on ecosystems and in turn, on water resources.

If inadequately managed, activities like farming, forest-clearing, road-building, and mining can lead to too much soil and suspended particles ending up in rivers (sedimentation). This damages aquatic ecosystems, impairs water quality and hinders inland shipping.

Our water resources, irregularly distributed in space and time, are under pressure due to major population change and increased demand.

Source: GreenFacts.org



How do my actions effect water supply? What can I do to ensure the safety of the water supply that effects my immediate neighborhood?



Fresh drinking water is an issue of primary importance, since it is indispensable for human life and for supporting terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Sources of fresh water are necessary for health care, agriculture and industry. Water supplies used to be relatively constant, but now in many places demand exceeds the sustainable supply, with dramatic consequences in the short and long term. (LS, #28)

One particularly serious problem is the quality of water available to the poor. Every day, unsafe water results in many deaths and the spread of water-related diseases, including those caused by microorganisms and chemical substances. Dysentery and cholera, linked to inadequate hygiene and water supplies, are a significant cause of suffering and of infant mortality. Underground water sources in many places are threatened by the pollution produced in certain mining, farming and industrial activities, especially in countries lacking adequate regulation or controls. It is not only a question of industrial waste. Detergents and chemical products, commonly used in many places of the world, continue to pour into our rivers, lakes and seas. (LS, #29)



Your Weekly Question to Ponder:

In some places, water is becoming a “commodity subject to the laws of the market.” Why does Pope Francis say that water cannot be treated like other natural resources – available for purchase for those who can afford it?

Educate yourself on the world’s water supply and how your individual actions are effecting that supply.



Please feel free to share your thoughts and insights with me at [ctownes26 @ gmail.com](mailto:ctownes26@gmail.com). Use “**Creation 3, 2, 1**” as the subject line. I would love to hear how you are making a difference for Sister Mother Earth.

Thank you for making a difference.
Feel free to share this **Creation 3, 2, 1**
with friends and family.

