

Care for Our God's Creation

As Catholics, water is a sign of purification, but what about the 2.2 million Americans who do not have access to running water and basic plumbing. This has been an ongoing problem for over 50 years, and it is usually one that we push aside. This problem is becoming worse as the years go on, and it is important to recognize this before we take this basic human necessity for granted. In Marin County we are blessed with clean water that is sustainably sourced, and it is important to realize how fortunate we are, and recognize this to help many other communities to help preserve water. We can start by coming together as a community to protect and care for God's creation.

Being a member of the Catholic church is so important to me, and hearing about how many Americans are struggling to find clean water breaks my heart. Pope Francis wrote in *Laudato Si'*, "The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all" (LS 23). To me this means that God cares for all people, and in this particular situation it shows that water is a blessing to all people, and should not be taken for granite. According to thehill.com a new survey shows the communities of Black and Hispanic Americans are less confident in the quality and safety of their water than White Americans. God cares for all people no matter their ethnicity, and it is not fair that some Americans get clean water and others don't, only because of their race. We can all come together to care for God's creation, and all of our brothers and sisters.

In Northern California we are all very fortunate to have safe and drinkable water, but unfortunately not everyone has access to this blessing. Irvine, CA, Reno, NV, and Grand Prairie, TX are all places that do not have access to clean and filtered water. In the Bible, God speaks often of the underprivileged. He commands us to give generously to the less fortunate and to speak up on their behalf. We can all help out these communities by listening to their stories, and

giving back, just as Jesus has taught us to do. We can start out by doing little things to preserve our water, such as taking shorter showers, turning off the water while brushing our teeth, and by checking your house for any leaks. If we all come together to do these things we can make a big impact.

2.2 million Americans are struggling to find clean water everyday. We can start out by doing the little things to preserve our water. If we all come together we can change this problem, we can all save millions from suffering. As a community of Catholics it is so important for us to learn about this topic, and to do our best to be aware of our usage of water, so that the 2.2 million Americans can feel confident in what they are drinking.