

## Care for Creation– Week Two: Laudato Si and Water

The word “water” is cited forty-seven times in Pope Francis’ encyclical, *Laudato Si’*. This demonstrates the great value and concern Pope Francis places on water as a sacred and essential part of life. “We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7),” the pope says in the second paragraph of *Laudato Si’*, “our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.”



**Water is essential to life** but most of us take it for granted.

The care for water is **a critical issue** of our time.



Pope Francis identifies five key problems related to water:



\*the lack of access to clean drinking water “indispensable for human life and for supporting terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems” [28];

\*the challenges for food production due to droughts and disparities in water availability and “water poverty” [28];

\*the continued prevalence of water-related diseases afflicting the poor [29];

\*the contamination of groundwater [29];

\*the trend toward privatization and commodification of a resource to which the pope describes access to as a “basic and universal human right” [30].

“Greater scarcity of water will lead to an increase in the cost of food and the various products which depend on its use.” Pope Francis says. “Some studies warn that an acute water shortage may occur within a few decades unless urgent action is taken. The environmental repercussions could affect billions of people and species; it is also conceivable that the control of water by large multinational businesses may become a major source of conflict in this century.” [31]



Water is sacred. In *Laudato Si’* Pope Francis courageously names the disparities in access, quality, and use of water between the wealthier, industrialized countries and poorer countries as moral, ethical issues.

He calls us to protect the sacredness of water, the element used in the sacrament of Baptism to symbolize the grace of God which cleanses us and give us life. Pope Francis makes clear the need for access to water to be a right without restriction for all people. Water should not be an instrument of suffering for anyone, especially marginalized members of society. “Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity.” [30]

*-Excerpted from an article by Maryknoll Lay Missioner Flavio Rocha.*

### **DID YOU KNOW? Water = Life**

The villages of the Morogoro and Masasi areas of Tanzania, in southeastern Africa, are in critical need of clean and safe drinking water. Villagers often collect water from standing ponds, which are fraught with disease-causing organisms. These ponds are the same use by local wildlife for everything imaginable. In 2019, Divine Savior helped sponsor a well in Tanzania with the support of generous parishioners Mary Jo and Mark Verke, who have regularly travelled (for 19 years) to Tanzania to follow up with the wells in villages in that area. This year, they are planning to visit again and hope to bring the promise of yet another well for fresh water! After all Masses on April 23-24, Mary Jo and Mark will gladly answer questions about this project and accept any donations in the church vestibule. For more information please contact Mary Jo at [maryjoverke@gmail.com](mailto:maryjoverke@gmail.com) or 916-878-9337.



All are invited to celebrate our beloved Pastor,  
Fr. Roman, as he retires!

## Open House

Saturday, June 4, 2022

Divine Savior 1:00-3:00pm

Please RSVP with your headcount  
to the parish office by May 27th !

All are invited to participate in two special (surprise) projects:

**\*Contribute PICTURES** that span Fr. Roman's 18 years in ministry here at Divine Savior or the 48 years of his priestly ministry.

Pictures should be emailed to: [jenyearwood@divinesavior.com](mailto:jenyearwood@divinesavior.com) or dropped off at the parish office to be scanned. Original pictures will be returned.

Photos must be received in the office no later than May 15th.

*\*If you have a Gmail account, you may also contribute to the online photo album using <https://tinyurl.com/2p84v2rr> or by scanning this QR code.*



**\*Create a personal VIDEO**

**MESSAGE** using the following website:

<https://share.vidday.com/r-rnkavj>

or scan the QR Code below

Video message should be limited to 1 min in length please.

Videos must be submitted by June 20 at noon.



**Your presence alone is a gift to Fr. Roman on this next part of his journey!**

However, many are asking about gifts for Fr. Roman.

It has been determined that one of the most substantial and appreciated gift would come in the form of a vehicle of Fr. Roman's choosing.

To this end, should you want to contribute to this cause, monetary gifts of **cash or check** can be offered.

**Checks should be payable to: "Society of the Divine Savior" with Fr. Roman Mueller written on the memo line of the check.**

We are asking that monetary gifts that are intended to go toward the purchase of a vehicle be sent in to the parish office (attention Katie Karras) by June 15th. *\*Please do not make checks out to the parish and please note that this is not considered a tax deduction.*

Looking forward to celebrating our beloved Pastor with you!

**We will also celebrate Fr. Roman on June 25th and 26th with a special presentation at all Masses and refreshments to follow.**