

# Our Connection to Water

## WATER AND OCEAN REFLECTION SERIES

Photo: Kristin McDermott

### MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS

'Even as the quality of available water is constantly diminishing, in some places there is a growing tendency, despite its scarcity, to privatize this resource, turning it into a commodity subject to the laws of the market. Yet 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.'

Pope Francis, Laudato Si #30



### CONNECTIONS AT THE UN

#### SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

March 22nd- World Water Day

March 23rd- World Meteorologist Day



#### World Water Day 2017

This significant day first declared in 1993 by the UN General Assembly. This year the theme of the day is 'Wastewater'. As you reflect on water-What comes to mind? What images, questions or ideas are raised?

## TAKE ACTION

- RESEARCH THE HIGH LEVEL PANEL ON WATER. THINK OF WAYS YOUR COUNTRY CAN COMMIT TO THE PANELS' 'ACTION PLAN'.
- READ MERCY GLOBAL ACTION'S PAMPHLET ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 6. DEDICATE TIME TO PURSUING THE 'COLLECTIVE ACTIONS'. [\(LINK\)](#)

# Reflection



Take a walk along a drain, stream, river, estuary or beach....notice pollution and pick up rubbish.

From your walk, draw or take pictures. Write a poem, short story or reflection on what you discover on your journey.



# Prayer

To the Creator

You wove into existence our home; our blue planet, on the edge of the milky way...  
You coaxed life from water – water that surrounds us, refreshes us and connects us back to you.

May you be with us on our journey, as we explore the water that provided us life.  
Give us clean water to quench the dry times as we revisit past actions and choices.  
Dry our watery tears as we learn the impact of our actions and choices on our planet.

Baptize us anew, with waters that invigorate and clear our vision,  
to see the actions and choices we now must make.

Amen.

## DID YOU KNOW?

"Globally, over 80% of the wastewater generated by society flows back into the ecosystem without being treated or reused. On average, high-income countries treat about 70% of the wastewater they generate, while that ratio drops to 38% in upper-middle-income countries and to 28% in lower-middle-income countries. In low-income countries, only 8% of industrial and municipal wastewater undergoes treatment of any kind" (Sato et. al, 2013).

Source: [http://www.worldwaterday.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Fact\\_sheet\\_WWD2017\\_EN.pdf](http://www.worldwaterday.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Fact_sheet_WWD2017_EN.pdf)