

Give Drink To The Thirsty

"For I was thirsty and you gave me drink." (Matthew 25:35)



Once again, we find that one can live much longer without food than without the water so needed by the physical body. We are told that the body is mostly water, and that it will not survive very long deprived of that water. If food is the Word of God and the example of Christ, then water is the Holy Spirit by which we bathe our souls in the Essence of God and are made ready for our missions and purpose in life. While we must hear and spread that Word and that example mentioned above, our efforts will be empty unless they are bathed in that **Holy Spirit** that guides us and fills us with the refreshing energy and passion so vital to living and sharing that Word and that example. This passion and that Word and example are one and inseparable as given to us by God and Christ, but our weak and imperfect nature tears them apart amid our misconceptions, arrogance, and confusion. Taken in this context, we now see that The New Order defines social works as cold, mechanized, robotic acts of charity added to some tally that counterbalances evil and condones much more profound errors. This society's social justice is an exercise in accounting rather than a passionate plea to once again join the fervor and sincerity found in The Holy Ghost with the Word of God and the example of Christ which define Heaven's dogma of social justice! We now see that abortion and euthanasia, for example, can never be examples of social justice because they lack the Spirit of God's Word and the passionate application of Christ's example that demand subservience to God's Authority over life and respect for that life.

Water is vital to sustaining all life and the proper functioning of Earth's ecosystems. Even though access to safe drinking water is a basic human right, not everyone knows what it is like to quench their thirst with a drink of cool, clear, clean water. Many water sources in areas of the United States have become polluted; fortunately, we have environmental legislation to enforce cleanups. In some of the world's most impoverished regions, the majority of water sources are polluted and pose a high risk of disease. Addressing environmental and ecological issues from a faith-based perspective, the U.S. bishops launched an Environmental Justice Program in 1993. It calls for a greater awareness and relief of "disproportionate environmental burdens borne by the poor, and children's environmental health issues."

Global Facts for Discussions:

- Worldwide, 2.3 billion people suffer from water-related diseases; unclean water and poor sanitation kills 12 million each year, mostly in developing countries. (Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, *Pollution and the Environment*: www.jhuccp.org)
- About 20 percent of the world's population lacks access to safe drinking water; 50 percent lacks adequate sanitation. (UNEP, *Global Environmental Outlook 2000*: www.un.org)
- All living creatures are impacted by polluted water and its usage for drinking, household needs, recreation, fishing and commerce. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov)
- At current water consumption levels, the U.N. estimates that by 2025 two out of three people will live in water-stressed conditions. (UNEP, *Global Environmental Outlook 2000*: www.un.org)

As God's hands on Earth, we can help alleviate water pollution. Here are some suggestions:

- Learn more about the importance of ecosystems, water quality and protection of watersheds.
- Understand the basic causes of water pollution: contaminated run-off, natural and man-made disasters, acid rain, lack of sanitation and sewage treatment facilities.
- Conserve water, never take this life-sustaining resource for granted.
- Advocate for sustainable development projects to supply clean water sources at home and abroad, especially in developing countries.
- Support domestic and international legislation aimed at protecting the environment.
- Support water restoration projects and organizations working to halt environmental threats.
- Adhere to domestic recycling programs designed to reduce environmental wastes.
- Understand God's creation related to the environment. (See video: *A Universe Drama in Three Acts*: