



# ST. BERNADETTE CATHOLIC PARISH

## St. Bernadette Lenten Study of Encyclical *Laudato Si*

**Week Three: March 16-18, 2020**

### **Readings: March 15th (Third Sunday of Lent)**

1. Exodus 17:3-7 (Give us water)  
Psalm: Hear the voice of God
2. Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 (God's love is poured out)
3. John 4:5-42 (Water of eternal life)

The water Jesus gives us wells up eternally, giving life to the world and to all who thirst. Jesus saved the woman and her town, quenching their thirst.

Our brothers and sisters have both physical and spiritual thirst. Jesus depends on us to offer them spiritual refreshment as well as clean drinking water, the most need for life. Human dignity demands an end to the waste of this precious resource and a united effort to assure all persons have clean drinking water.

Throughout the Scriptures, water is rich imagery of God's hand in creation. Water also is cleansing and refreshment. In our Gospel today, Jesus offers "living water" to us.

One way to pray in response to today's gospel is to mindfully drink a glass of cold water and then meditate on the experience. What does this tell you about your needs, your thirst and God's gifts?

**Read *Laudato Si* Chapters 3 & 4**

**Opening Prayer: A Prayer for the Earth**



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## Discussion Questions

1. Are there limits to what we should develop scientifically? Are there forms of technical progress that are bad for society and the natural world? What are some examples given by the Pope? What are some more examples?
2. What role can cultivating and appreciating the beauty of such things as nature, art and music have in counterbalancing/managing the technocratic paradigm?
3. How can we genuinely teach the importance of concern for other vulnerable beings, however troublesome or inconvenient they may be, if we fail to protect a human embryo, even when its presence is uncomfortable and creates difficulties (§120)?
4. How significant to the environment is taking care of ourselves—eating healthy, becoming/staying physically fit, practicing good daily hygiene, getting regular physical, eye and dental exams, etc.?
5. What can we do to help those in need “feel held in a network of solidarity and belonging” (§148)?
6. In a context similar to our principles of Catholic Social Teaching, what would our principles of Catholic Environmentalism include?
7. What would you hope the world looks like for your descendants 100 years from now (environmentally, socially, values, other)?
8. What other key points and/or questions did you see in these chapters? Thoughts? Reactions?



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## Response / Activities

*Parish Activity: How we use water, water bottles, clean water and recycling*

- 1.
- 2.

### **Suggestions for Individuals and Families:**

- Use reusable drinking containers, straws, eating utensils, etc. instead of the disposable alternatives when eating out, especially in fast food restaurants.
- Eat more locally produced, organic food to reduce transportation costs and the use of fossil fuels to produce fertilizers and pesticides.
- Get involved with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Samaritan House, and others to help support those in need.
- Find ways to live more simply.
- Research possibilities for minimizing the use of disposable plates, cups and utensils wherever possible for parish activities.
- Don't be afraid to identify ways our personal faith has helped us get through the overwhelming situations in our lives and be more willing to share those with others, especially those who believe we have gone past the point of no return with the environment.
- Research alternative solutions for getting off coal and then work with our cities, Xcel and others developing action plans.

**Closing Prayer: A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation**