Water: Sacred Gift

1. Please consider your relationship with water, an absolute essential for all life.
2. “Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.” (Genesis 1:2)
3. Water is sacramental. Yet it is something we tend to take for granted.
4. Water is life. It sustains us. It grows our food and makes our economy flow.
5. “Our very bodies are made up of earth’s elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.” (LS 2)
6. What percent of your body is made up of water? 60%
7. The brain and heart are 73% water, lungs 83% water. The skin contains 64%, muscles and kidneys 79%, and even the bones are 31% water.
8. Water is used for hydration, washing, recreation, etc.
9. How have you used water lately?
10. Today, water is under assault.
11. Water shortages have already taken place in many parts of the world.
12. Water shutoffs are done in many U.S. cities regardless of who is in the house—children, elders, pregnant, babies, or persons who are sick or disabled.
13. Every spring, Detroit Water and Sewage Department announces how many homes will be shut off; in 2019 it was only 5,600.
14. If you are able, round up your water bill to the next dollar amount to contribute to your utility’s fund for households having difficulties making water payments.
15. Greater scarcity of water will lead to an increase in the cost of food and the various products which depend on its use. (LS 31)
16. The average person in the U.S. uses about 98 gallons of water per day; the World Health Organization recommends at least 13 gallons a day.
17. Try using just 4 gallons of water today, the average daily usage in poor countries such as Haiti.
18. Those who lack access to water are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity.
19. What’s your favorite soft drink? Did you know a small bottle of Coca-Cola takes roughly 1.9 liters of water to make?
20. Amazingly, it can take 713 gallons to produce the cotton for a single t-shirt.
22. A walk-in center for homeless individuals in Philadelphia receives 6643 visits a year from 1261 unique individuals, partly to access water.
23. People experiencing homelessness lack access to welcoming places to shower, brush their teeth, use the toilet, wash their clothes—hydration is essential for them.
24. What commitments can you make in your community, workplace, home or personally to conserve water?
25. Jesus said – Give drink to the thirsty. Jesus said – I thirst!
26. Express gratitude for the precious gift of water every time you wash your hands today or flush a toilet or do your wash.
27. 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. (LS 30)
28. “More people die as a result of polluted water than are killed by all forms of violence including war.” (UN Secretary General)
29. Climate change is bringing drought to many areas, severely disrupting agriculture and food production, while other regions experience severe flooding.
30. Raise someone’s awareness of the precious resource that water is.
31. Please commit to being more conscious of WATER – as a SACRED GIFT!

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