

Week

AMSSND JPIC Department

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Refrain from drinking bottled water and avoid single-use plastic items such as to-go cups, straws, plastic stirrers, and grocery bags (in addition to continuing the fasts from weeks 1-3).

“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. 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. This debt can be paid partly by an increase in funding to provide clean water and sanitary services among the poor. But water continues to be wasted, not only in the developed world but also in developing countries which possess it in abundance. This shows that the problem of water is partly an educational and cultural issue, since there is little awareness of the seriousness of such behaviour within a context of great inequality.” (LS 30)

A prayer intention for each day:

1. For a personal change of heart toward embracing an integral ecology.
2. For those without access to clean water.
3. For women and girls forced to travel long distances to get water, which inhibits their ability to attend school and places them at risk of trafficking and child labor.
4. For people forced to migrate due to drought and other climate-related hazards.
5. For the health of our planet and the ecosystems affected by plastic pollution.
6. For the people of Haiti, and all communities and nations decimated by climate-related disasters.
7. For an end to cultural structures that perpetuate waste and unnecessary consumption.

