

## Laudato Si' Essay

Think about all the things in your life that you have, that you may take advantage of. Whether that means the home you live in, food that is an available resource, or our access to clean water. Well, many Americans today have one or more of those issues, but one of the major ones include Americans' access to clean water. Water may seem like something that is easy to get, for all of us here in the Bay Area, but around 2 million people in the US do not have this access today.

In a video, made by *CBS*, they send out a reporter, who went and talked to people without water in their home. Many of the people were using nearby streams, and pipes to collect water. They would then take this back to their homes and boil it in a pot, to clean it. This works, however, is not the best because humans are constantly using water. Residents in a small town in West Virginia had a water source, but it was full of chemicals. Many of them would drive to the next town, to the closest fire hydrant. When I think of America, I don't think of a place of people who don't have water, I think of a country of people who care about others, no matter what they believe or what they look like, and will help each other at any point of time. As the Catholic Social Teachings states, "The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society—in economics and politics, in law and policy—directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community." I would say that this relates to the video, because everyone works as a group to solve this problem for their generation, and for the later generations after them.

There are so many ways that scientists have come out and said ways that we can save water, but how many of those have you actually done in the past week? Us Californian's always have years that we are in major droughts, in fact we are currently in one right now. I could save

water by not taking showers for longer than 5-10 minutes. We can also let our lawns die, because it is better to save this water for more important resources like drinking it or bathing. I can also turn off the water when I am not using the sink while washing my hands or brushing my teeth. This may not sound like a lot but, the little things in life always make a big difference, and I feel that it is important to save this water for the people who need it more than me.

While it may seem difficult to conserve water, the answers are right at our feet. Water may seem like something that is not important, water is one of the things that is keeping almost everything on Earth alive. As *Laudato Si'* states, "Care for nature is part of a lifestyle which includes the capacity for living together and communion. Jesus reminded us that we have God as our common Father and that this makes us brothers and sisters" (LS 228). This quote means that we should all work together, as a team, to make sure that this problem will get fixed as quickly as possible.