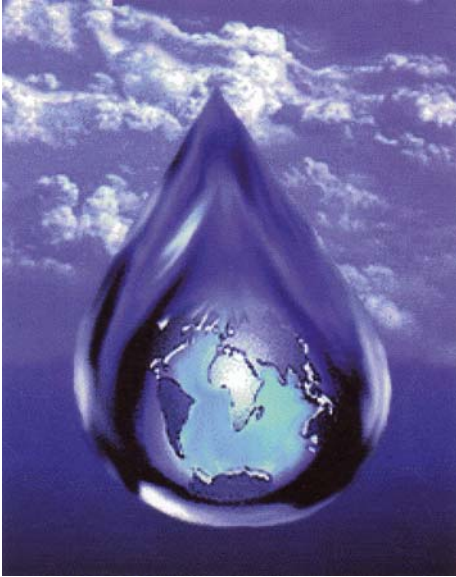


Of every hundred liters of water, less than half a teaspoon is fresh water available for human use. United Nations



Water is a Human Right and a Public Good

We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history. A time when humanity must choose its future... We are one human family and one Earth community with at common destiny... We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice and a culture of peace.

The Earth Charter—earthcharter.org

The Sisters of the Holy Names are studying the possibility of taking a corporate stand to safeguard water. Both the lack of water and the commercialization of water have significant impact on the economic situation of women, making them more easily victims of human trafficking...it is easy to connect the issue of human

trafficking and safeguarding water for all creation, because neither human persons nor water are commodities that should be exploited for the benefit of a few. We maintain that just as “Women and children are not for sale,” **“Water is not for sale.”**

The Sisters of the Holy Names affirm:

Water is a sacred gift that connects all life.

Access to clean water is a basic human right.

The value of the earth's freshwater to the common good takes priority over any possible commercial value.

Freshwater is a shared legacy, a public trust and a collective responsibility.

Therefore, we support actions and policies that:

Ensure universal access to sufficient, affordable, safe water for all people, especially the most vulnerable.

Protect freshwater as a sustainable, renewable resource.

Implement the objectives of the UN Millennium Goals on water.

We oppose actions and policies that:

Endanger the world's supply of freshwater.

Deprive humans and other species access to adequate, safe water essential for life.

Favor the privatization of water as a commodity to be bought and sold for profit when in reality it is a heritage we all hold in common

Taken from the Educational Material For the SNJM Corporate Stand,
Water is a Human Right and a Public Good

Access to clean water in sufficient amounts is absolutely essential for human life and health.

Freshwater is a limited resource: only 2.5 percent of Earth's water supply is clean enough for human consumption.

A child dies every eight seconds from a disease caused by polluted water. United Nations

The world's finite supply of accessible freshwater is so polluted, diverted and depleted that millions of people and other species are deprived of water simply to live...

The privatization of water services and the marketing of fresh water for profit typically decrease accessibility of clean, affordable water of impoverished persons and countries.

What can we do? For actions to take and a list of resources please contact: Janet Burgad, Publication Editor, Sisters of the Holy Names, Spokane, WA. 509-328-7470 ♦ jburgad@snjmwa.org. Visit <http://www.snjmusontario.org/environment.html> to determine your ecological footprint and for taking a green audit of your home or parish.