

Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation, Sisters of Charity of New York May 2018 Special Edition on WATER



Global Poverty Task Force welcomed Mia Peters, Renato C. Pangan and Danielle Giocondo (rising CMSV sophomores) to its May 22nd meeting to share on the Clean Water Initiative business plan they developed in their Social Entrepreneurship class co-taught by Sister Eileen Fagan and Dr. Nina Aversano. They have outlined actions they need to take these next three years and amount of money they need to raise to bring clean safe potable water to those fleeing Venezuela to refugee camps in Cucuta, Columbia

where water is limited and unsafe to drink. GPTF will discuss if and how it might assist.

Sisters of Charity of New York address sustainable use of water in many ways. For example:

- Global Poverty Task Force recently read and discussed *“Water & Sanitation: A People’s Guide to SDG 6, A rights-based approach to implementation”*. Its Food & Water Committee is currently exploring value of a Sisters of Charity Statement on Water.
- The PJIC Office, Food & Water Committee, and Creations Transformative Energy Task Force raise awareness and advocate against fracking and pipeline expansion and for 100% safe clean renewable energy. These issues relate to sustainable use of water.
- Leadership Team encourages personal and congregation reduction of use of single-use plastics. This saves on water!
- Public Witness and sign-ons – one example is the Water Act of 2018 (see next page). We continue to advocate for water as a human right. Recently we also signed on to a letter to Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper of the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee. We joined many organizations in opposition to the *“Voluntary Water Partnership for Distressed Communities Act.”* Despite the title, the bill will serve to coerce communities into privatizing their public water systems... while failing to ensure long-term compliance with drinking water quality standards...”
- Individual sisters and associates are taking small but significant steps of saving water one drop at a time....while brushing their teeth or doing dishes...as well as reminding others to do the same.

Take a moment to remember an experience of water you have had or a Sisters of Charity of New York congregation experience or action on water. Share with Creations Transformative Energy Task Force by emailing Sr. Carol De Angelo cdeangelo@scny.org

Facts & Figures

2.1 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water services. (WHO/UNICEF 2017)

4.5 billion people lack safely managed sanitation services. (WHO/UNICEF 2017)

Water scarcity already affects four out of every 10 people. (WHO)

90% of all natural disasters are water-related. (UNISDR)

80% of wastewater flows back into the ecosystem without being treated or reused. (UNESCO 2017)

WATER Act of 2018 provides a positive vision for our water. It would provide up to \$35B for publicly owned water and sewer systems, as well as rural household water wells and septic systems. (For reference, here's last year's bill - the WATER Act of 2017:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1673> . Rep. Keith Ellison and Rep. Ro Khanna are reintroducing the WATER Act to include a change in the funding mechanism. Sisters of Charity of New York joined with others in advocating it. Last year, it taxed overseas profits, but because of tax code changes, we needed to find a new funding source. So, the WATER Act of 2018 would roll back a small portion of the Trump administration's corporate tax cuts and increase the corporate income tax rate by 3.5 percentage points. Click on link <https://twitter.com/keithellison/status/989155042279161856> (1:38 minute video) to find about our aging water infrastructure and the need to pass Water Act of 2018.



Water Action Decade 2018 – 2028

Water is critical for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger, and is indispensable for human development, health and wellbeing. Water-related challenges, including limited access to safe water and sanitation, increasing pressure on water resources and ecosystems, disasters and an exacerbated risk of droughts and floods, have received increasing attention in the global development arena. Water is at the heart of recent milestone agreements such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the 2015 Paris Agreement. The World Economic Forum ranks the water crisis in the top 3 of global risks for the third consecutive year. Failing to respond effectively to these challenges will have devastating global effects. The General Assembly proclaims the period from 2018 to 2028 the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development” (the “Decade”), to further improve cooperation, partnership and capacity development in response to the ambitious 2030 Agenda. Commencing on World Water Day, 22 March 2018, and concluding on World Water Day 2028, the Decade builds on the achievements of the previous “Water for Life” Decade, 2005-2015. The resolution states that the objectives of the Decade should be a greater focus on:

1. the sustainable development and integrated management of water resources for achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives;
2. the implementation and promotion of related programmes and projects; and
3. the furtherance of cooperation and partnerships at all levels to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/wateractiondecade>