

## LIVING WITH CHRIST THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 18:	Third Sunday of Easter (C) - white
Monday 19:	Ferial - white
Tuesday 20:	Ferial - white
Wednesday 21:	Ferial - white
Thursday 22:	Ferial - white
Friday 23:	Ferial - white
Saturday 24 :	Ferial - white
Sunday 25:	Fourth Sunday of Easter (C) - white



# Water for Life

## 3. Economics 101 - Learning to Conserve

We can all learn to use water carefully. Nevertheless in wealthy countries such as ours, this will require radical changes in our habits. North Americans' access to water is disconcertingly easy. Our accessibility has led to wasteful practices and it is imperative that we take responsibility. It is very tempting to point a finger and blame industries or agriculture - both are significant water consumers. However ordinary men and women must also learn what they can do to help safeguard this precious resource.

### FIRST STEPS

The first step is obvious: repair any leaks that could represent more than 20% of a family's consumption. A leaky faucet wastes 100 to 300 liters of water per day. Regular plumbing maintenance would stop this waste.

A second step is equally obvious: make careful choices when it comes to new appliances. Stores are full of appliances that are more economical and offer a choice of settings to reduce water usage.

Finally during summer, it is tempting to water our lawns and gardens without any regard for waste. Leaving the watering up to nature might seem like the ideal solution, but during dry spells, we should water in the evening in order to reduce its evaporation.

### SELF-EVALUATION

There are certain standards that we can use to evaluate our own water consumption. An average person in the western hemisphere consumes approximately 140 liters of water per day, which is 50 cubic meters per year. If we were to evaluate a family's consumption using the same references, a family of four would consume 130 to 160 cubic meters of water. These figures come from CNRS (*Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique*) *National Centre for Scientific Research*, and are accurate. The goal of this organization is to make us aware of the current water management crisis.

### PRAYER

*The sunshine was given to us;  
The rain also is a gift.  
Lord, how should we appreciate these two?  
How can we thank you for these daily gifts,  
For these free natural resources?  
Lord, help us to be good stewards and manage these gifts  
Which are signs of your love.  
Amen!*

*Ghislaine Salvail, s.j.s.h.*

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli