

LIVING WITH CHRIST THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 25:	Fourth Sunday of Easter (C) - white
Monday 26:	Ferial - white
Tuesday 27:	Ferial - white
Wednesday 28:	Ferial - white
Thursday 29:	St. Catherine of Siena, virgin, doctor - white
Friday 30:	Ferial - white
Saturday, May 1 :	Ferial - white
Sunday 2:	Fifth Sunday of Easter (C) - white



Water for Life

4. Sharing the Wealth

A PERTINENT QUESTION

The question of water management and conservation is very topical today. The media, politicians and organizations have it in their sights. The Commission in charge of water management in Quebec could serve as a model for the international community since the well-being of our planet depends on how we will proceed.

For a long time we have neglected this issue because of the abundance of water in our country. Yet the evidence is there: the water reserves are fragile and thus, threatened. Though indispensable for life, water can also kill us. A tragic reminder is the horrible situation several years ago in Walkerton, Ontario. As much as water provides life, it can also terminate it.

A NEVER-ENDING BATTLE

In some countries where water is scarce, getting to its source or digging wells could be a perilous task but also a good opportunity for global solidarity. Remember the passage in the Scriptures about the Samaritan woman (Jn 4:1-30). A lack of water can mobilize people for a common cause that will provide ingenious, creative and cooperative opportunities among *partnering* communities which ultimately will affect survival in third-world countries. We have seen miracles happen: desert regions are flourishing and polluted rivers are now clean. Unfortunately we have also seen once fertile land become parched and rivers that previously teemed with fish no longer able to support aquatic life. These extremes emphasize that water is an essential resource and we must be vigilant managers and defenders.

THE WATERWAYS

The Amerindians, the first inhabitants of our land, used rivers and streams to travel. The first colonists built homes along the majestic St. Lawrence. Waterways always preceded highways and enabled explorers to discover new territories which they named and settled. Our country is rich in water reserves. We can even export our water. But are we aware of all the implications? Do we still think that water is an inexhaustible resource? If none of these facts will change our thoughtless and wasteful ways, perhaps this prayer will hit home ...

PRAYER

*Rivers can turn into deserts
And brooks and creeks can disappear.
Fertile land could easily become a salty wasteland,
because of the carelessness of its inhabitants.
God turns deserts into lakes,
And refreshes parched lands with springs of water.
And in these places, the hungry settle,
And establish their homes.*

Amen!

(based on Psalm 107:33-36)

Ghislaine Salvail, s.j.s.h.

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli