Water: Our Most Precious Resource

The precious water now within our bodies and within our lakes, oceans and rivers became a functional part of this planet some 4 billion years ago. Drop by drop, it is irreplaceable and precious; there can never be more water, only cyclically present in its various forms. Drop by drop, it is the source of life, of vegetation, of beauty...which one of us does not love to sit by the Mississippi or reflect quietly near one of the Great Lakes, watching its waves roll up to our feet, refreshing us with its blue-green color, its misty aroma, its warm sand? How many poems and art pieces and photos have come from our hands because of the intriguing splendor of water?

World Water Day has been observed on March 22nd every year since 1993. The United Nations General Assembly, within the context of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, enacted this global commemoration in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Each year the theme focuses the world’s attention on another aspect of water; this year: Water and Energy.

To dive right in, let’s reflect on that connection. Energy has many forms while water is necessary to produce, transport and assist the production of energy. Different types of energy extraction have different impacts on water resources. Electric power generation is particularly dependent on the availability of water. In fact, several power plants needed to be shut down because of a shortage.

It is believed that securing enough water and energy is core to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals since healthy people need to live in a healthy ecosystem as well as a robust green economy. The UN system works closely with its international partners to address inequities, especially for the bottom billion people who live in slums and poor rural areas and survive without access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation or sufficient food and energy services.

The goal of World Water Day is to indicate the positive aspects of the connection between water and energy and how they may both be used more efficiently. This depends on the cooperation of all of us as each of us world citizens needs both energy and water for a sustainable life. (www.unwater.org/worldwaterday)
A Lovely Water Meditation

On a leisurely day, before stepping into the bath or shower, ask the Spirit of Water to cleanse, heal and purify the deepest pain inside of you, whether that be physical, mental or emotional. Your active participation in asking for healing opens you to receive whatever gift might be given. Have you not received insights when taking a shower or even washing your hands?

When feeling the warmth of the water on your body, realize that it is the same water present in lakes, rivers, streams, waterfalls, the rain, puddles, snow... throughout the world. The water that comes to you is planetary water.

CHECK OUT THIS LINK FOR A GREAT LENTEN RESOURCE
(Note SSNDs: this correlates with our SSND Lenten practice!!)

Water: Our Most Precious Resource; March 20, 2014; 7:00-8:30 PM.
Featured speaker: Kimberlee Wright, director of Midwest Environmental Advocates, Madison. Notre Dame of Elm Grove, 13105 Watertown Plank Road; Elm Grove, WI; Fee: $5.00 per person; to register; call 262-787-1011. Co-sponsored by SSND Shalom-Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation and The EDGE. (Note: please park on the east parking lot.)

Clean Green; March 25, 2014; 7:00-8:00 PM.
Featured speaker: Meribeth Sullivan, Waukesha County Division of Land Conservation. Just in time for spring cleaning, this presentation dusts off our habitual dependence on cleaning materials containing chemicals and offers healthy alternatives. Make and take home an effective non-toxic: “Creamy Soft Scrub” and recipes; Elm Grove Library; 13600 Juneau Blvd. Elm Grove, WI; fee: $5.00; to register, call 262-787-1011; sponsored by The EDGE.

From Christopher Frye:

A Sleep of Prisoners
Thank God our time is now when wrong Comes up to face us everywhere, Never to leave us till we take The longest stride of soul we ever took. Affairs are now soul size. The enterprise Is exploration into God. Where are you making for? It takes So many thousand years to wake, But will you wake for pity’s sake!

The EDGE publishes this monthly newsletter. Editor: Sister Suzanne Moynihan, SSND. Email theEDGE@ssndcp.org or call 262-787-1011. The EDGE is subsidized by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Central Pacific Province.