

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours



Valuing Water

As members of the Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours of Paris, we commit ourselves to do what we can in our personal and communal lives and in our spheres of influence to educate ourselves and others so that we might take action to address the water crisis. CBS Water Statement, 2013

World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water. It is a day about taking action to tackle the global water crisis and achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.

The theme of World Water Day 2021 is valuing water. Beyond the issues of pricing, this topic includes the environmental, social, religious and cultural value people place on water. This issue of JPIC News invites you to reflect on the ways you value water and highlights one international organization, Waterkeepers Alliance, whose mission it is to ensure drinkable, fishable and swimmable water everywhere.

Since 2013 the Congregation of Bon Secours has made a commitment to address the water crisis and last year made a commitment, as part of the UISG Sowing Hope for the Planet campaign, to decrease water use. To commemorate World Water Day each area (country) has planned a water initiative to help us stay focused on that commitment that you will read about in this issue of JPIC News. As an added bonus the World Water Day toolkit, prepared by the UN, is attached to this newsletter to help you learn more about World Water Day 2021.

Spotlight on Waterkeepers Alliance

Waterkeepers Alliance is the largest and fastest growing international nonprofit solely focused on assuring clean water for all. This organization preserves and protects water by connecting local Waterkeeper groups worldwide. Currently there are more than 350 Waterkeepers groups in 45 countries that advocate for the protection of 2.8 million sq. miles of waterways. Among the countries that have Waterkeepers groups are Ireland, Peru, Democratic Republic of Congo and the USA.

- Cork Harbor Waterkeeper
- Chesapeake Waterkeeper
- Amazon Peru Waterkeeper
- Lac Kivu DRC Waterkeeper

Whether on the water tracking down polluters, in courtrooms enforcing environmental laws, advocating in town meetings or teaching in classrooms, Waterkeepers speak for the waters they defend—with the collective strength of Waterkeeper Alliance and the backing of their local communities.



Learn more about
Waterkeepers Alliance
<https://waterkeeper.org/>

Click the link and scroll to the bottom of the page for Spanish and French translations.



March, 2021
Vol. 6, Number 7



March
JPIC Days of Remembrance

March 3
World Wildlife Day

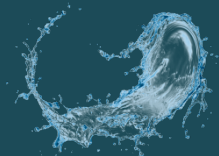


March 8
International Women's Day

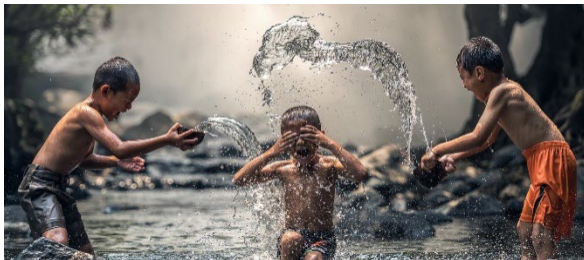
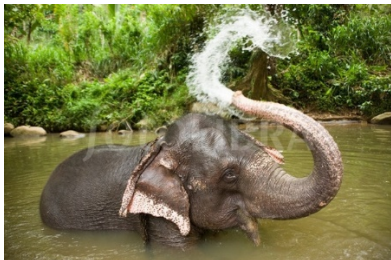


Globally, women and girls are the primary water collectors for their families and for this reason many girls do not attend school.

March 22
World Water Day



March 25
International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade



Valuing Water

Reflect on the many ways you value water this month.

Notice how water refreshes us physically, spiritually, emotionally and socially.



Reflection

Take some time to listen to the sounds of water dripping, pouring, streaming, splashing and spraying. The sound of water reminds us of God's promise of plenty. Silence can remind us how much we value this resource and evoke compassion for so many others who lack water – a resource that is essential for life.

- Think of the life-giving potential water can bring to barren land.
- As you listen to, or imagine, the sounds of water, ask yourself: What is your relationship to water? And then pray:
 - for justice and fair access for all people to this most vital resource;
 - for patience and strength to sustain advocacy and campaigning on water justice.



Sowing Hope for the Planet Initiatives Conserving Water in the Bon Secours Family

As part of our Bon Secours commitment to the UISG Sowing Hope for the Planet campaign, our Congregation made a commitment to decrease water use. The International JPIC Committee is excited to announce that each area is planning a water initiative to commemorate World Water Day and we enthusiastically invite you to participate in your area's initiative.

Peru: On March 22 the JPIC Peru Support Team will be using social media to communicate messages about conserving water. These messages will coincide with the school year calendar to encourage all of us, and especially children and their families, to value and conserve water.

USA: The JPIC USA Team will be hosting a "Lunch and Learn" virtual event using ZOOM on March 22 at noon that will include a short video and time for discussion. This will be the first of three events focusing on water. The USA Team also invited Bon Secours Ireland to participate in this event. We will be publicizing these events through the weekly employee news and emails to those on our JPIC Google group.

Ireland/GB: Water conservation tips will be posted on Bon Secours Ireland Facebook page on March 22 and will also be communicated to each community coordinator so the tips can be posted on the notice board and adopted by Bon Secours Ireland. Ireland will also join the USA for the "Lunch and Learn" event even though it will be way past lunchtime in Ireland.

France: The JPIC France Team will have a special gathering on March 22 in each community on the theme "Let's value water" based on the UN campaign to generate dialogue about the value that people place on water in all its uses. In the gathering, the communities will have the opportunity to reflect on the different uses of water and discuss what water means in personal, spiritual and community life. This sharing can be done with the Sisters, staff, and associates.

One Day a Week, Go Without Meat! Celebrating One Year of Meatless Mondays!



This month we celebrate one full year of participating in Meatless Mondays throughout the Congregation of Bon Secours! As we enter year two, we invite the Bon Secours Family to join us in this endeavor. Livestock production creates more greenhouse gases than the entire transportation sector – all the cars, trucks, planes, and trains in the world – so eating less meat is one way to address climate change. It's good for our planet and good for your health, too.

International Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee

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