



From the California Bishops:

California is facing its third straight year of lower than normal rainfall. The Golden State is no stranger to drought and the low levels of reservoirs, Sierra snowpack and groundwater are becoming increasingly apparent.

Water is essential to who we are as human beings, said Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento and president of the California Catholic Conference of Bishops. Our reliance on water reveals how much we are part of creation and creation is a part of us.

If current trends continue, the 38 million residents of California could face many economic, health, safety and quality of life challenges from the current water shortage. Some of the highest unemployment in the nation, for instance, is already in California's rural farming communities. Water shortages could make matters worse in these devastated communities.

Annually, wildfires threaten homes and livelihoods as well as the safety of the men and women who must fight the fires. Workers in the water-, outdoor- and snow-recreation industries face loss of income. Water is vital for food production, sanitation, power generation, environmental protection and transportation. In a severe drought people could also face increased respiratory ailments, heat related emergencies, and mental stress.

Balancing the needs of various water users in California has always been a challenge for our leaders and our communities.

Prayers

Because of the potentially dangerous impact on people, industry and the environment, the Catholic Bishops of California are asking all people of faith to join in prayer for God's mercy and compassion.

As we work toward the common good of the state in this situation, we are reminded of our dependence on the Creator. Our relationship with Him calls us to be good stewards of the creation He has entrusted to us. As stewards of creation we can turn to the Divine Master asking that He see our plight and give ear to our plea for rain, said Bishop Soto.

He offers this simple prayer:

May God open the heavens and let His mercy rain down upon our fields and mountains. Let us especially pray for those most impacted by water shortages and for the wisdom and charity to be good stewards of this precious gift. May our political leaders seek the common good as we learn to care and share God's gift of water for the good of all.



Local water conservation

- saveourh2o.org

Water justice

- crs.org/water-sanitation/

Global water conservation

- nrdc.org/water/

California drought

- sfgate.com/drought

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Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Your life changes when your image of God changes. It is natural and likely that as we journey through life we emulate those we look up to and admire – perhaps our parents or others who have been influential in shaping who we are. As Catholics, this is certainly true of the God that we adore and worship. We've all heard the expression, WWJD (What would Jesus do?). Our image of God, the way that we know Him to be, shapes who we become. Our lives flow from this image that we hold of God.

For most of us, the image we hold of God has not been stagnant; rather it has changed as we come to know him through education, as we mature in our understanding and as a result of our experiences in life. We may see God as our loving creator, but what happens to our image when we experience pain, hurt, suffering and disappointment. What happens to our image of God when we have prayed endlessly and feel that our prayers have been ignored?

If the image of God that we hold is contradicted by circumstance and experience then, in some sense, we have the same options we do when we outgrow a pair of shoes: We can continue to use that same pair of shoes and complain that they don't fit (Why is God so cruel?); we can toss the shoes out altogether (become an atheist or agnostic); we can find a pair of shoes that fits (Grow an image of God that reflects God's self-revelation and validates my day to day experience).

A Catholic who chooses the third option must search the Scriptures and the Tradition of the Church to see if she/he has missed any vital information; we must seek out evidence of the goodness of God revealed in the bible and in our lives. This third option, the option of growing into the image of God takes commitment and continuous choosing to grow in our faith.

What is the image that you have of God? Has it changed over the years? Has the image of God that you started with as a child grown as you became an adult? Are you growing into God? And are you prepared to share your image of God with others? This conversation will continue.

Prayers, wishes and blessings!

Rev. William Rosario
Parochial Administrator



Jesus and the Woman at the Well

Weekly Worship Schedule

Saturday Vigil
5:00 p.m.

Sunday Eucharist
8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
and 6:00 p.m.

Weekday Eucharist
Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m.

Taizè Evening Prayer
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross
Friday, 12:10 p.m.

Sacrament of
Reconciliation
Saturday
4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Immediate Need for Children's Liturgy

of the Word Volunteers: Children at the 10:30 a.m. Mass are invited to attend the Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW) during which they get to hear the Gospel story told at their own level and do a craft to reinforce the teaching for the day. Children who are 3 years old may attend with a parent or other adult. Children 4 and above may attend without an adult.

CLW gives parents a welcome chance to pray, sing, and listen without wrangling children for the entire mass. If you have children and have appreciated this program at St. Augustine, please consider volunteering to be a parent leader once every few months. If you are a grandparent or you don't have children but love being around kids as they learn and ask questions about God, you are most welcome to volunteer as well. No one is ever left alone with a classroom full of kids, and all of the lessons are prepared ahead of time for you. The commitment takes only a few minutes before and after mass once every few months. Up until now we have been able to offer CLW weekly, but without more volunteers we will not be able to continue it on a weekly basis.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Ann Naffziger, 510-521-8011 or ann@paulandann.org

Pray for the Elect and Candidates of St. Augustine

During this Lenten season, please pray in a special way for the five catechumens and candidates in our parish community. Their names are Scott, Janine, Efren, Nicole, and Juan, and they are preparing for full communion with the church at the Great Vigil of Easter.

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill: *Mary Flynn, Madeleine Shannon, Matilda Maes, Michelle Arnsdorf-Fie, Mary Pavao, Lakey Zerihun, Gloria Bautista, Ruth Johnson, Claudia Johnson, Matthew Laubach, Mary Lou Ihrig, Jannet Johnson, Carmon Woodyard, Hortense Atkins, and Roseanne Johnson*

And those who have died: *Eugene Alan Merlin, Cristóbal Kauffman, Vivian Breen Manka, Fr. Tom Edwards, Rose Camberos, Adella Rose, James Jacob, and Lee Weathersby III*

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, March 22nd, 2014, 5:00 p.m.

Parishioners and Benefactors

Sunday March 23rd, 2014, 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, March 23rd, 2014, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, March 23rd, 2014, 6:00 p.m.

Stewardship – Weekly Offering

March 16th, 2014 - \$4,624.00 (includes EFTs)
(Budgeted \$4,287.00)

EFT forms are on the registration table.

NEXT SUNDAY is the "5th Sunday of the Month," St. Vincent de Paul Society/St. Augustine Conference, 2nd Collection!

Oakland Elizabeth House "Where Hope Lives" - 2014 Benefit Luncheon and Auction

On Thursday, May 1, 2014, Oakland Elizabeth House will host their biggest fundraiser of the year - the 23rd Annual Benefit Luncheon at the *Claremont Country Club* (10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.). Event proceeds help Elizabeth House shelter and support women and children in times of crisis for up to 18 months as they strive for positive, independent living. The day includes a welcome reception, newly expanded boutique shopping, live auction, and lunch. Special guest speaker, NY Times best-selling author Ayelet Waldman, will provide opening remarks, and a current E-House resident will share her personal story. Reserve your seat now--this event sells out!

If you are unable to attend, you can make a donation envelope available on the table in the Sanctuary.

Reservation or donation:

www.oakehouse.org/events

Contact: Laura Keady: sfkeady@sbcglobal.net.

The families of E-House sincerely thank you - your support gives them hope for a better life.

Family-to-Family sign-ups & Orientation Meeting

Monday, March 24th, 7:00 p.m., in the Rectory Dining Room. The first meeting of the Family-to-Family parish ministry (assisted by Catholic Charities of the East Bay) is tomorrow. Family-to-Family is a safe and structured way to support a low-income family. Team members will be formed and trained, mentored and guided in this work. It requires attending a once a month meeting and some special activities with the family at your discretion. Show your love for Christ's poor by signing-up today.

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Living
MORE
with
LESS

LIVING WATER

In our modern culture, we often lack an appreciation of water. We take it for granted.

But our sacred scriptures were written from the perspective of a people with a history of living in the desert. To them, water was *life*. Water was a precious gift from God. That's one reason water appears in the Bible so often, and is such a central part of our sacramental life.

But our society pollutes it, wastes it, wraps it in plastic, and assumes there will always be enough of it for us. Now, in the midst of a drought, we are invited to

rediscover its value and treat it with respect and reverence.

Almost one billion people—one out of eight in the world—do not have access to safe water. Many must travel for long distances to get water from contaminated sources. More people are killed by dirty water than by all violence and war.

During Lent, we reflect on the dryness of forty days in the desert. This is a good time to reclaim our appreciation for water, which will also help us better understand and experience the "living water" our God gives us.

[The] Use of the symbol of water shows how realistically John thought of eternal life: water is to natural life as living water is to eternal life.

Raymond Brown



An Easter Blessing for Baptismal water

We bless you, water, by the living God, by the true God, by the holy God, who in the beginning separated you from the dry land, whose spirit moved over you, who made you flow from the fountain of paradise and commanded you to water the earth in four rivers, who changed your bitterness into sweetness in the desert, and who produced you from a rock for the thirsty people.

We bless you by our Lord Jesus Christ, who in Cana of Galilee changed you into wine by a wonderful miracle, who walked with his feet upon you, who was baptized by you by John in the Jordan, who made you flow out of his side together with his blood, and who commanded his disciples that those who believe should be baptized in you. We bless you.