

## Laudato Si

Water should be a basic right for all humans. I feel blessed to live in the richest country in the world and water should not be denied in certain parts of our country. I feel privileged to be able to get water from my sink and take a warm shower whenever I want. Watching people who live in the Navajo nation or in other parts of this country deal with limited or no access to water is heartbreaking. I can't imagine having to carry buckets of water into my house and having to make serious choices about the amount of water my family uses on a daily basis.

There are 4 people in my family. If I lived in one of these areas it would be a burden for my parents to have to worry about the supply of water for us. This limitation would affect our everyday life. I would feel frustrated that I could not shower after a hot day and after volleyball practice. I would not like going to school smelling and unfresh. It would be hard for my family to have to split one bucket of water and not have access to refill it once it is empty due to limited water supply.

Currently I take a reusable water bottle to school, I brush my teeth with water, I enjoy drinking hot tea before bed and shower every other day. My mom uses water to cook pasta, rice, beans, soup, make coffee or hot tea on a daily basis. With limited water none of the above could happen as often as it does now. My life would be different. Living in an area with limited water use would make me more aware of what I don't have and humble about what I do have. Reflecting and learning about other parts of our country makes me thankful for my water use and that I have never had to live without having water on a daily basis.

Laudato Si teaches me that I need to conserve water. I can conserve water by limiting the amount of water I use in the shower, not keep the water running when I brush my teeth, and not leave water running when I wash dishes just to name a few. I can also better protect our earth by recycling, reducing what we buy, and turning off lights in my house for starters.

I need to do my part as a young person by becoming active and learning more about our earth. Pope Francis of Assisi teaches us that the world cannot wait. We must make changes now.