

## A Drought of Clean Water for Poor Communities

If I was born into a poor family living in a poor community, I would have no expectations about my ability to access clean water. That would be a luxury that I could only imagine in my dreams. My everyday life is about hauling buckets and buckets of water into the house each day. Before we can drink the water or cook with it, it must be heated to kill all the bacteria swimming in it. This water is precious to us because of all this effort, just to have an essential thing for life. My days are taken up by this work of collecting water and doing this never ending process, leaving me very little time to enjoy being a kid.

Caring for our Earth's resources is everyone's responsibility because it is our common home. We take good care of the houses that we live in, so too must we take good care of our Earth. Pollution has negatively affected the health of our oceans. If we don't do better, natural resources like water, and especially clean water, becomes very hard to find. This problem doesn't affect the wealthy communities, but the poor communities are hardest hit by this. How can we all be a part of the solution to make sure everyone has access to clean water? Laudato Si' says these simple acts can help a great deal: turn off the lights when not using them, recycle as much as possible, conserve water, and live simply by not buying a lot of stuff that we don't need.

I was shocked by how many communities have no access to clean water. I thought this was not a problem that many people faced every day. Living simply, recycling, and conserving. These little things are a small price to pay to make sure we all have clean water.