

## Laudato Si Essay

In the "Americans Without Water" video it talks about the unavailability of healthy drinking water for some Americans. It informs us about the problem of healthy drinking water being unavailable to more than two million people in the United States. There was little being done about it until a non-profit organization called Dig Deep and the U.S. water alliance conducted a survey about this water problem, informing us about the effects it has on the people who are getting hit by this misfortune. This video relates deeply to the Catholic Social Teaching theme of solidarity and to one of the Laudato Si quotes in many ways. It teaches us about what we can do to help.

In the video a woman said "We're the town that time has forgotten and that's the honest truth. We don't matter enough." The video even stated that some people know about this water issue but "there seems to be little political will to fix it" and that there is no sense of urgency about it either. We are also told in the video that "Black and Latino Americans are twice as likely as White Americans to live without running water." This goes against the Catholic Social Teaching theme of solidarity. We are all one big family and we should not be treated differently because of our race or ethnicity. We are all equally loved by God and we should all treat each other with the same love and respect as Him. Families take care of each other and help each other. They don't ignore each other or show a lack of will to help each other. As a family, we must all look out for one another and see everyone as equals.

I think that the video about Americans without water also relates to one of the quotes from Laudato Si. "Human beings too are creatures of this world, enjoying a right

to life and happiness, and endowed with unique dignity. So we cannot fail to consider the effects on people's lives of environmental deterioration, current models of development and the throwaway culture"(LS 43). Having water is a right and not having water can take away a person's dignity. It can take away a person's dignity if the person is unable to shower, wash their hands, or clean their homes and belongings. The right of having clean water should be given to everyone and that right should be protected as well. It is our duty and responsibility as brothers and sisters to help these unfortunate people without water to get the right supply of safe water. Not much is being done about this horrible water problem but many people fail to see the effects it has on over two million lives. Not only do people fail to see it, but they also ignore it. "These communities are our invisible neighbors. The ones that for whatever reason, their neighbors around them didn't want to see, didn't want to look at, didn't want to acknowledge, but i see that changing," said George McGraw, founder and c.e.o. of dig deep. Although more attention is being drawn to the situation, before recently many have been ignoring this problem and putting aside the needs of the people without water. We are all human beings and all equal so why treat someone differently than others? We should acknowledge what is wrong and do what is right for the good of our community and world.

Some things are being done about the lack of water provided to many Americans, although we can all do some things to help. Whether they are big gestures or small gestures, it can make a difference. One thing we can do is try to spread the word of the problem and bring it to the attention of as many as possible. If word spreads, adults may be able to take bigger steps and push those of higher authority to

do something about it. Another thing we can do is volunteer. There may be organizations that do all they can to try and help the people who are affected by the lack of safe water. The more people who volunteer, the more people there are to help and the more people can have wealthy water to fulfill their daily needs. After all, we must think about how these people without water are being affected and how their lives are different from ours and more difficult. The Catholic Social Teachings and the Laudato Si give us insight to how big of an issue this really is and what other troubles are there with society today. We must all do our part to love one another and help each other out, following God's wishes for his sacred creation.

#### Work Cited:

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