



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH *All of God's Creation*

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, March 30, 2025

The Growing Challenge of Access to Clean Water

World Water Day, celebrated on March 22, is “a global event raising awareness about freshwater. It’s about the water we drink, the water we enjoy for swimming and recreation, the water that is critically important to jobs and the economy—the precious resource essential for life itself.” (Jon Scott, Member Services, *Clean Water Action & Clean Water Fund*, 3/20/25)

“Worldwide, 1.7 billion people regularly consume water tainted by bacteria, animal waste and parasites — because they have no other option” (Michele Sagarino, President, *Cross Catholic Outreach*, 3/22/25). “Currently 3.6 billion people live without safely managed sanitation, and 1.7 billion lack even basic sanitation. This exposes them to cholera and other deadly waterborne diseases.” (*Our Common Home – A Guide to Caring for Our living Planet*, joint initiative of the Holy See and the Stockholm Environment Institute, 2/14/23)

In the U.S., the **Clean Water Act**, which was passed 52 years ago, “has served as our most fundamental tool for protecting our nation's waters and the communities that rely on them. Yet ... corporate polluters have continually tried to gut those protections in the name of profit, leaving communities -- particularly lower-income and communities of color -- to continue to bear the brunt of our nation's water pollution. Did you know that **over two million Americans don't have access to clean drinking water?**” (Beth Roach, *Sierra Club*, 10/18/24)

“[The latest U. S. Supreme Court's 5-4 decision](#) significantly limits the ability of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and states to protect water quality under the Clean Water Act (CWA). Specifically, this ruling **undermines CWA protections by restricting EPA's authority to regulate raw sewage discharges into water supplies.**” (*Waterkeeper Alliance Currents*, March 2025)

“Bit by bit, the power of the Clean Water Act is being undermined, weakening protections for our waters, and limiting the EPA’s ability to safeguard public health and the environment. The Supreme Court has set a dangerous precedent that could compromise the safety of our rivers, lakes, and drinking water sources. This ruling undermines decades of progress in environmental protection and leaves communities vulnerable to unchecked pollution.” (Marc Yaggi, CEO, *Waterkeeper Alliance*, 3/4/25)

Don't Take Clean Water for Granted! Looming federal cuts and rollbacks are putting clean water on the chopping block.

Access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights.
Laudato Si' (30)