



PREPARATION FOR THE MEETING

Water and care for the environment: an educational question

- Water is a precious resource essential for life, and yet we risk a great scarcity of water within a few decades if urgent action is not taken. **We must be aware of the value of this resource.** God has entrusted to us as believers the task of caring for and protecting "our common home" for future generations.
- Pope Francis invites us through the encyclical *Laudato si'*: "**The water problem is partly a question of education and culture**, due to lack of awareness of the seriousness of certain everyday behaviors."
- **Reflecting on the effects and problems related to lack of water** can help us understand the great challenge faced daily by large sections of the population in some African countries.

What can teenagers do:

- They cannot yet influence world politics, but they can **grow in responsibility and awareness** of the impact of their lifestyle on water resources. They can shape their attitudes and **spread them among friends and throughout their cities**. They can also participate in initiatives already going on, like World Water Day.
- **A water well.** Perhaps one person alone cannot provide it, but a family or a group of families, or a parish all together, can. Some of the projects of AMU are directed toward access to drinking water. One can also contribute with small donations.

Some useful texts for exploring the topic:

- Excerpts from the encyclical "*Laudato si'*" of Pope Francis ([attachment thirst A1](#), o [doc](#))
- March 22 **World Water Day**. A description of the event with various materials can be found on <http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday/features/all/en/>. This page has many national sites in various languages.
Aqueduct in Indonesia – a description of the AMU project for access to drinking water <http://www.amu-it.eu/2014/03/19/acquedotto-in-indonesia/?lang=it>

BEFORE THE MEETING

Whom can we involve from the community? How?



WORKS OF MERCY – Guidelines for Group Leaders

HOW GOOD THIS WATER IS!!! “I was thirsty and you gave me to drink”

WHOM CAN WE INVOLVE FROM THE COMMUNITY? HOW?

- Become aware of the importance of water in human life
- Know the hardships of people who have no access to clean water
- Raise awareness to a sustainable lifestyle in regard to environmental resources

SUITABLE MATERIAL FOR TEENS:

- [From PPT “Heart in Action”](#) –Slides 16 to 26 "For all those who are thirsty ..."

Proposals for activities that can be developed at the meeting

- **Water speaks:** video for reflection on the relationship with nature - the text is in English, you can add subtitles
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXZCYd8n9V4&list=PL5WqtuU6JrnU1HNY7FDJ5yXyI8sgvN6CN>
- **Interactive Quiz on water use** in it/en/fr/es <http://water.msv.it/>
- **Save the drop:** outdoor team game to encourage reflection on everyday actions that help us reduce the consumption of water ([attachment thirst R1](#), o [doc](#))
- **Story of the Zambian children** – a World Vision video to learn about the hardships on children who have no access to clean and safe water
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bg1iLMnKD-4&list=PLPeX3Loss3kBusAZVi-GVU_qbfzj2pnvB with subtitles in Italian <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwBLu-u5y8E>

EVALUATION

- Has this meeting strengthened team spirit and dialogue among all? Has it increased the climate of trust and mutual love? Have we experienced the presence of Jesus among us?
- Does it seem like the issue of protecting water resources has become our own concern? Are we aware that Jesus considers done to him whatever we do to help our brothers?
- Have we put these words into practice in daily life and possibly with a specific action?
- Have we involved the community?

See also <http://assistentigen3.focolare.org/>