Goal 6:

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

What promises does it contain? What does it ask of us? What does it ask of our communities, our local area authorities, Governments?

"...water is an issue of primary importance, since it is indispensable for human life and for supporting terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. In many places demand exceeds the sustainable supply, with dramatic consequences......"  
(Laudato Si 28)

Goal 6 promises to protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

How might we deepen our appreciation for the gift of water? Take a moment to reflect on how water is integral to our sacramental way of life?

"...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. Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water...."  
(Laudato Si 30)

As a doe longs for running streams ... my soul thirsts for God, the God of my life.  
Ps 42
Goal 6 promises to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

How safe is your drinking water?

Is it free and readily available?

LISTEN to POPE FRANCIS

One particularly serious problem is the quality of water available to the poor. Every day, unsafe water results in many deaths and the spread of water-related diseases. 

(Laudato Si 30)

Goal 6 promises to achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and in those vulnerable situations.

If anyone is thirsty, let them come to me. Let anyone come and drink who believes in me. As Scripture says; from his breast shall flow fountains of living water. 

Jn7:37

In what ways might we unconsciously waste or pollute water or reward its commercialisation by our daily choices?

LISTEN to POPE FRANCIS

Underground water sources in many places are threatened by the pollution produced in certain mining, farming and industrial activities. Detergents and chemical products... continue to pour into our rivers, lakes and seas.

(Laudato Si 29)

If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because they are a disciple, then I tell you solemnly they will most certainly not lose their reward. 

Mt 10:42

If anyone is thirsty, let them come to me. Let anyone come and drink who believes in me. As Scripture says; from his breast shall flow fountains of living water. 

Jn7:37
Goal 6 promises to improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

How are water shortages and pollution currently impacting humans and other species in your region of the world?

LISTEN to POPE FRANCIS

Water continues to be wasted, not only in the developed world but also in developing countries, which possess it in abundance.... there is little awareness of the seriousness of such behaviour within a context of great inequality.

(Laudato Si 30)

Goal 6 promises to substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.

They have abandoned me the fountain of living water, only to dig cisterns themselves, for leaky cisterns that hold no water. Jr 2:1

What are the future prospects for universal access to clean, drinkable water in your reality?

My soul is thirsting for you ... as land parched, weary and waterless. Ps 63:20
Even as the quality of available water is constantly diminishing, in some places there is a growing tendency...to privatize this resource, turning it into a commodity subject to the laws of the market.  

*Goal 6 promises* to implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.

*Goal 6 promises* to expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.

In what ways does water privatization and commercialisation impinge on access to fresh, drinkable water, especially the poor?

*Goal 6 promises* to support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

What are the moral considerations of converting a resource that is a “basic and universal human right” into a commercial commodity with a price tag?

If anyone is thirsty, let them come to me. Let anyone come and drink who believes in me. As Scripture says: from his breast shall flow fountains of living water.

What are the moral considerations of converting a resource that is a “basic and universal human right” into a commercial commodity with a price tag? How could a deepened appreciation of water be expressed in our individual and communal lives?
As you considered the promises of SDG Goal 6, pondered the scripture passages, listened to the message of Pope Francis and reflected on the questions .......

What will you do next to ensure you avoid polluting and wasting water in your personal life, in the life of your community, your local area, your country?

How will you share this message with others?

**Water Blessing:**

May the ancient wisdom of this water well up within us and fill us with wisdom.
May its sacred mystery captivate our imagination and our whole being.
May its cleansing properties cleanse and renew us to be life giving for all of life.
May it’s refreshing calm bring healing and peace to us and all who are living in painful situations.
May its energy and transparency inspire us and all humanity to live in harmony and peace. Amen