

Fourth Tuesday of Lent ~ 3/20

"Wherever the river goes, every living creature that can multiply will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes." (Ezekiel 47:8-9)

Those who study the environmental crisis understand that one of the biggest worries facing humanity is the shrinking amount of fresh water. The water is there but more and more of it is being polluted by unregulated industry, poor farming practices, toxic waste dumps, and various other human practices. The rivers are flowing but most are not clean and fresh. The other thing that ecologists can tell us is that if the water is sick we too will be sick, since our survival is dependent on water. One sign that people understand that pure water is essential is evidenced by the booming bottled water business. People know that drinking water is good for them, but they are concerned about purity.

Ezekiel tells us that the water of God, the water of life, will be pure water and that it will come and make even the salt water fresh, the polluted water fresh. There will be abundant life flourishing because of this living water. This water will be the life-blood that will run through the tributaries of our souls.

During this Lenten season it might be good to reflect on the gift of water. Perhaps today we could be aware of how often we use it and how often we abuse or waste it. Taste it and touch it and watch its movement. Realize that the blood that flows through your veins does so because water makes it possible. Look around at everything that is beautiful and reflect on the role that water plays in this beauty. If it is raining go out and walk in it if possible. Today find your connection with water. Realize that our lavish God gives this gift abundantly.

We have been baptized in water and today many of our churches have baptismal pools very visibly present so that we do not forget our connection with the Living Water. Is our water polluted by the acid rain of our tongues as we tear down our neighbor? Do we throw refuse into the streams of salvation when we throw away our dreams of heaven for earthly wealth and power? Do we poison the groundwater of our hearts by burying the toxins of hurt and betrayal rather than filtering them through Christ's purifying forgiveness? Just how fresh is the water of our own eternal spring?

Questions for Reflection

- 1. How precious is water to me? Do I reverence the gift of life that it is?*
- 2. Is there any correlation between the pollution of the soul and the pollution of the earth? Can I name a few for myself?*