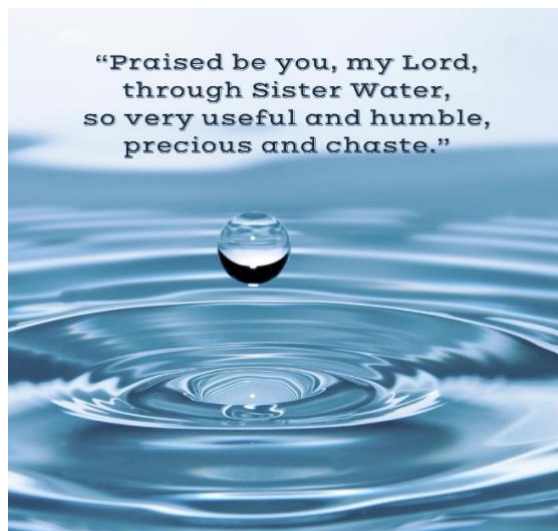




# Ongoing Formation Packet

## Sister Water



- Connects Sister Water to ecology and environmental justice, touching on climate problems.
- For initial or ongoing formation and public outreach.
- 2 versions: fraternities decide how deep they wish to go.
- Highly interactive: prayer, education, discussion, action, and advocacy.



Available at: Website-Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) – Secular Franciscan Order – USA.

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## Why Sister Water?

There are many issues related to the integrity of creation, but kinship with and care of Sister Water touches us all.

- Water is a basic need for all creatures. For humans, it has a deep connection to refreshment and nourishment.
- For Christians, it is tied to Baptism, one of our sacraments of initiation that connects us to the Trinity.
- Each region of the U.S. and the world has its problems tied to water or the lack of water: drought, floods, pollution, access, wildfires, crop failures, desertification, depleted aquifers, algae blooms, erosion, mudslides, loss of topsoil, unsafe drinking water, maternal and child health, rising coastlines, displacement, data centers, etc.

## Structure

### Version A Packet

- Prayer and discussion.
- Easy to use for 60 – 75 minutes during initial or ongoing formation at a meeting.
- Less challenging topics.
- Both high and low-tech options.
- Simple actions for water: 1) donate to the OFS H2O Project, 2) conduct a water fast, and 3) research local issues.

#### Objectives

1. Appreciate and emotionally connect to God's love and appreciate the miracle of Sister Water.
2. Understand the context for Secular Franciscans.
3. Create an awareness of the water cycle.
4. Understand water problems and their effects.
5. Take simple actions to care for Sister Water.

### Version B Packet

- Prayer and discussion.
- Easy to use for 60 – 75 minutes during initial or ongoing formation at a meeting.
- More challenging topics.
- Both high and low-tech options
- Examination of Scripture and water.
- Demonstration of water problems.
- Ritual prayer with Sister Water and Brother Rocks.
- More complex and public actions, including advocacy and direct action on national or local water issues: 1) conduct the Catholic Environmental Justice Challenge, 2) host a World Water Day event, 3) advocate on local water issues, and 4) host a river or lake cleanup event.

#### Objectives

1. Appreciate and emotionally connect to God's love and the wonder of Sister Water.
2. Create an awareness of the water cycle.
3. Understand Scriptural context of water.
4. Appreciate the scarcity of water and its negative effect on those who are marginalized.
5. Take public action to protect Sister Water.

