



March Corporal Work of Mercy: Give Drink to the Thirsty

I was thirsty and you gave me to drink... Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.
—Matthew 25:35, 40

“I thirst!” This cry of the dying Christ is on the parched lips of millions of people in our world today. Nearly one billion people lack access to a supply of safe water, half a million people die every year from polluted water, and two out of six people still have to carry home the water they use.

Pope Francis comments on this crisis in his recent encyclical: “Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to life consistent with their inalienable dignity.” (*Laudato Si* 30).

The Corporal Work of Mercy to give drink to the thirsty is more fundamental than giving food to the hungry, because water is a more basic necessity than food.

How you can *Give Drink to the Thirsty* this month:

- + Donate cases of bottled water or cans of coffee to a homeless shelter such as **Catholic Worker Isaiah House** (www.occatholicworker.org) or **Mary's Kitchen** (www.maryskitchen.org)
- + Contribute to the water sanitation and hygiene efforts of **Catholic Relief Services**, an organization that works in more than two dozen countries (www.crs.org)
- + Keep bottled water in your car to offer to homeless people on the street
- + Sponsor a well in East Africa through **Wells of Life** (www.wellsoflife.org) or participate in their **Run 4 Water** 5K race on **May 15**, in Laguna Niguel