

## Water for Life

To be contemplative is to know the Whole and to embrace it as Holy. The Catholic Liturgy speaks to our contemplative selves through the frequent use of symbols rooted in nature.

The most prevalent sacramental is water. We use water for blessing, water for baptizing. Our Scriptures are replete with stories of water... the Exodus parting of the water, Noah's devastating flood, the healing pool of Siloam, the water into wine at Cana, the calming of the Sea, Jesus' baptism in the Jordan and so many more.



During Lent 2008, we began the journey on the First Sunday from a place of no water (the desert) and arrived at the pinnacle of the Paschal celebration with the Easter Vigil and the baptism of the catechumens. Water is very visible throughout the ritual.



This past September Pope Benedict spoke to young people on Creation Day, a day set aside by the Church in Italy to acknowledge our responsibility for the future of the planet. In referring to water in particular the Pope stated that "unless it (water) is shared in a just and peaceful way, (it) will become a cause for tensions and bitter conflicts."

March 22, 2008 marks the annual observance of World Water Day sponsored by the United Nations. The day serves to turn attention to the issues surrounding water usage namely scarcity, pollution, sanitation, border concerns, and gender among others.

Coincidentally this year March 22 is Holy Saturday, a day of quiet, loss and apparent death but as the sun sets our churches will fill with Alleluias and the waters will flow and life will be celebrated.

This Lenten season culminating in the Paschal Mystery is an opportunity for prayer, study and action around the gift of **WATER**.

There is much to learn and much to do.



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