

## Homily Helps and Petitions for the 3rd Sunday in Lent, March 8, 2026

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Exodus 17** But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

**Psalm 95** For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

#### † Comments for the Day:

God was with the people of Israel as they entered the wilderness after fleeing Egypt. God was with them from the beginning to the end of their journey just like God is with us in our earthly journey. His compassion for His children knows no bounds. When it seems that the world is falling apart and all seems lost, only God will stand and only through God can we live - here and in the world to come. The poor of Earth cry out for help and for water equitability.

People in this world crave water just like the Israelites did. With God's help we need to learn to conserve water so that all might have the water needed. Water conservation and management are essential for sustainable human life, ecological balance and economic stability, as fresh water is limited and an increasingly stressed resource. Only a fraction of the Earth's fresh water is suitable for consumption. Conserving water ensures water availability for drinking, agriculture and industry and protects this world's ecosystems.

But conserving isn't enough. We also need to manage its use. Management means planning, developing, distribution and efficient use of water resources. It also provides resilience against climate change by controlling floods, droughts and water scarcity through storage, efficient irrigation and sustainable watershed management.

### **† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:**

Fresh drinking water is an issue of primary importance, since it is indispensable for human life and for supporting terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Sources of fresh water are necessary for health care, agriculture and industry. Water supplies used to be relatively constant, but now in many places demand exceeds the sustainable supply with dramatic consequences in the short and long term. (28)

One particularly serious problem is the quality of water available to the poor. (29)

Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because *they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity*. This debt can be paid partly by an increase in funding to provide clean water and sanitary services among the poor. (30)

### **Related Prayers of the Faithful**

**Option 1** Oh God of the water and the seas, the mountains and the hills, the deserts and all other creations of this world, help us to find ways to bring water equity to all. Let us show the world your love through these many gifts. Amen.

**Option 2** God, you are the path to all of your children to have what they need. Help all of us to work together to make sure that the poor of this world have the water and food that they need. In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

### **Further Resources**

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