


# Flowing Forward: A Water-Wise Earth Month Calendar

## APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>Groundwater provides drinking water for more than 90% of the rural population who do not get their water from a municipal water department or private water company. Where does it come from?  <a href="https://bit.ly/43iA6wI">https://bit.ly/43iA6wI</a> 1</p>	<p>Water is a powerful symbol in faith. For many it is the source of life. Faith communities prioritize water justice for the vulnerable, recognizing that stewardship of water is essential for peace.  <a href="https://bit.ly/3TF03Uc">https://bit.ly/3TF03Uc</a> 2</p>	<p>Nutrient pollution (nitrogen and phosphorus) is one of our most widespread, costly and challenging environmental problems. Discover the role that agriculture plays.  <a href="https://bit.ly/49CUCdE">https://bit.ly/49CUCdE</a> 3</p>	<p>What's wrong with bottled water? Just about everything! Learn how the bottled water industry fabricated the myth that bottled is better than tap.  <a href="https://bit.ly/3TkQFof">https://bit.ly/3TkQFof</a> 4</p>	<p>Atmospheric rivers are a key feature in the global water cycle and are closely tied to both water supply and flood risks – particularly in the western U.S. Learn more here:  <a href="https://bit.ly/3TmZpKT">https://bit.ly/3TmZpKT</a> 5</p>	<p>The average shower uses about 5 gallons of water per minute. Conserve both water and money by taking shorter showers. Here are some tips on how to do it:  <a href="https://bit.ly/430CqYY">https://bit.ly/430CqYY</a> 6</p>
<p>Water Week starts today! Water professionals from across the nation gather in DC to help advance key water policy priorities. Find out more:  <a href="https://bit.ly/3wUZNHo">https://bit.ly/3wUZNHo</a> 7</p>	<p>Since 2006, the Sister Water Project of the Dubuque Franciscans has completed over 360 well projects in Tanzania and 45+ water systems in Honduras. Learn about their work here:  <a href="https://bit.ly/3V1WU1w">https://bit.ly/3V1WU1w</a> 8</p>	<p>Cruise ships generate millions of gallons of oily bilge water, sewage sludge, garbage and hazardous wastes. Get the facts on cruise ship pollution:  <a href="https://bit.ly/4366Qcw">https://bit.ly/4366Qcw</a> 9</p>	<p>Soak up the rain! Rain barrels conserve water and prevent runoff pollution. Learn how to set one up or make your own!  <a href="https://bit.ly/3V8lbnz">https://bit.ly/3V8lbnz</a> 10</p>	<p>Commercial car washes use less than half the fresh water used to wash your car at home or at a car wash without water reclamation technology. Learn more here:  <a href="https://bit.ly/4c5UEfT">https://bit.ly/4c5UEfT</a> 11</p>	<p>The average American family uses over 300 gallons of water per day at home. Roughly 70% of this use occurs indoors. Get the facts:  <a href="https://bit.ly/3PkaBoX">https://bit.ly/3PkaBoX</a> 12</p>	<p>Wetlands are called the “kidneys” of the Earth because they filter out pollutants, which improves water quality for surrounding waterways. Here’s how they work:  <a href="https://bit.ly/49LmFrD">https://bit.ly/49LmFrD</a> 13</p>
<p>When water is scarce or polluted, or when people have unequal or no access, tensions can rise between communities and countries threatening peace. More about water and peace here:  <a href="https://bit.ly/3VdzjLE">https://bit.ly/3VdzjLE</a> 14</p>	<p>In the last 50 years, water-related disasters have accounted for 70% of all deaths related to natural disasters. Discover ways to build climate resilience:  <a href="https://bit.ly/3v1RjOP">https://bit.ly/3v1RjOP</a> 15</p>	<p>Don't dump it down the drain! Learn how you can reuse water around the home with these seven clever water recycling ideas.  <a href="https://bit.ly/3P58qp8">https://bit.ly/3P58qp8</a> 16</p>	<p>Since 2004, there has been a nearly 50% increase in U.S. factory farmed animals, producing 2x the sewage of the entire U.S. population and causing a host of medical problems for nearby residents.  <a href="https://bit.ly/3wH0cx6">https://bit.ly/3wH0cx6</a> 17</p>	<p>Children living in conflict areas are 3x more likely to die from water-related diseases than from violence. Learn what UNICEF is doing to address the crisis.  <a href="https://bit.ly/4c6SWuN">https://bit.ly/4c6SWuN</a> 18</p>	<p>A water footprint is how much water an individual uses on a regular basis. Calculate your personal water footprint here:  <a href="https://bit.ly/3T4xjSX">https://bit.ly/3T4xjSX</a> 19</p>	<p>It's time to move to less thirsty energy sources! The IEA predicts that by 2035 coal plants will be responsible for over half of all water used for energy production.  <a href="https://bit.ly/4ce5mRx">https://bit.ly/4ce5mRx</a> 20</p>
<p>The hydraulic fracturing process poses multiple threats to water supplies by consuming vast amounts of water and polluting existing water supplies. Get the scoop here:  <a href="https://bit.ly/3IzD5XX">https://bit.ly/3IzD5XX</a> 21</p>	<p>TODAY IS EARTH DAY! The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a floating mass of plastic trash the size of the state of Texas that poses risks to the safety and health of marine life.  <a href="https://bit.ly/49MvC3N">https://bit.ly/49MvC3N</a> 22</p>	<p>Harvesting water from the clouds in Peruvian mountains? Watch this video to see how they do it!  <a href="https://bit.ly/4aaK0CU">https://bit.ly/4aaK0CU</a> 23</p>	<p>It takes 2,700 liters of water to make the average cotton t-shirt. That's enough drinking water for one person for 900 days. Learn how to make more sustainable fashion choices.  <a href="https://bit.ly/4a70FqU">https://bit.ly/4a70FqU</a> 24</p>	<p>Watch "Who Will Save Our Waters?" - an award-winning “puppet activist” animated film produced by indigenous artists from the Pacific Northwest.  <a href="https://bit.ly/3uZV32X">https://bit.ly/3uZV32X</a> 25</p>	<p>Globally, safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene are still out of reach for billions of people. Learn about the UN Sustainable Development Goal to address the challenge.  <a href="https://bit.ly/4aauve1">https://bit.ly/4aauve1</a> 26</p>	<p>How and where our food is produced, whether it's rained or irrigated, and how much pollution it creates, determines the water footprint of the food we eat. Check it out:  <a href="https://bit.ly/4cfUnr0">https://bit.ly/4cfUnr0</a> 27</p>
<p>Wealthy countries that have more water available per person use large amounts in inefficient ways. Can you guess which country has the highest water footprint per capita?  <a href="https://bit.ly/3ThkPYw">https://bit.ly/3ThkPYw</a> 28</p>	<p>Prior to 1972, raw sewage and chemical waste were openly dumped in America's waterways. Discover how the Clean Water Act brought our waters back to life.  <a href="https://bit.ly/3T5x36m">https://bit.ly/3T5x36m</a> 29</p>	<p>The 2-Basin Dishwashing Method is the best way to wash dishes. One with soapy water to scrub in; one with clean water to dunk and rinse.  <a href="https://bit.ly/3wqClwd">https://bit.ly/3wqClwd</a> 30</p>				

A project of the Midwest Franciscan Justice Promoters: [Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, MN](#) - [Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, La Crosse, WI](#) - [Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis, WI](#) - [Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, IA](#) - [Sisters of St. Francis, Dubuque, IA](#) - [Sisters of St. Francis, Rochester, MN](#)

**“Praised be You my Lord through Sister Water, so useful, humble, precious and pure.”**

**-St. Francis of Assisi**

As our Catholic and Franciscan heritage reminds us, we are in relationship with water, which sustains life throughout the world. About 71 percent of the Earth's surface is water-covered, yet this vital resource faces numerous threats exacerbated by climate change. Contaminated and scarce water in turn harm the life that depends on it and create the potential for conflict and war.

- Only 0.5% of water on Earth is useable and available freshwater.
- Today, 1 in 4 people – 2 billion people – around the world lack safely managed drinking water.
- Global water demand is projected to increase by 55% by 2050.
- The current Arctic sea-ice cover (both annual and late summer) is at its lowest level since at least 1850.

This reality calls us to contemplate and assess our relationship to water. How much water do we use on a daily basis? Where does our water come from? Are we working to preserve our local waterways? How can we enable all people to have access to safe drinking water?

In line with Pope Francis's teachings in his landmark encyclical *Laudato Si'*, this Earth Month calendar underscores the universal right to safe drinking water, emphasizing its vital role in sustaining life and ensuring the exercise of other human rights. Through this initiative, we echo the call for a shared commitment to addressing environmental challenges.

Let us praise God through our relation to water in our personal lives and our advocacy for the vulnerable of our world, including the water that sustains us.

The Midwest Franciscan Justice Promoters is made up of representatives from the following communities:

[Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Minnesota](#)  
[Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, La Crosse, Wisconsin](#)  
[Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis, Wisconsin](#)  
[Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa](#)  
[Sisters of St. Francis, Dubuque, Iowa](#)  
[Sisters of St. Francis, Rochester, Minnesota](#)

## **A Prayer for Water**

God, our Source of Life, shape our thoughts, words, and actions to honor the essential role water plays in our lives and in creation.

Moving through our daily lives, it is easy to take water for granted, to waste this precious resource. Increase our awareness of our use of water so that we may more deeply recognize our interconnection with water and the rest of creation.

Our bodies are formed from and nurtured by water, and yet thousands of people continue to live without access to water that is safe for drinking and sanitation. Urge us to take action to ensure that all people have access to life-giving water.

Open our eyes to the beauty of the rivers, lakes, and oceans. These bodies of water grace the landscape and are home to diverse forms of life. Compel us to act on behalf of the world's water to prevent and eliminate the contamination that threatens the health of these natural resources.

May our relationship to water and the recognition of our interdependence with all of creation urge us to advocate for justice for the vulnerable of the Earth.

We ask all this through your Son, who offers us life-giving water. Amen.

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