

**World Water Day 2024 Celebration Lunch and Learn**  
**Friday, March 22, 2024 – 10:30 am to 11:30 am**  
**Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center**

*Sponsored by: Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte, the Sisters of Mercy, and the Catholic Relief Services Global Fellows Program*

**Opening Prayer** - *Loving God, whose son Jesus Christ called all who were thirsty to come to him, believe and drink, look in mercy on your people struggling to survive without access to safe drinking water. Forgive our selfishness in life and our misuse of our natural resources. We commit ourselves to value and care for your gifts to us. May rivers of living water and practical compassion for all who suffer flow out from our hearts. Refreshed by your Spirit, and following in the way of Jesus Christ, we will continue to serve you in the people and creation entrusted to our care. Amen (Source: Caritas Australia)*

**Closing Prayer** - *God of Creation, on the third day you caused water to fall from the heavens. And it was good. Ever since, water has been essential to our life, to our health and to our very existence. Our rivers and streams teem with life. Our forests, and farms and meadows, even the cracks in the sidewalk, are rich in vegetation because of the rain you send down and the springs that you raise up. We are grateful for this gift. We are humbled by it. And sometimes we are fearful of it. We acknowledge water's strength, its ability to flood, to devastate, to drown, even as we praise you for water's gift of life, and sustenance and growth. Help us to be worthy stewards of this great gift, to make sure that none go thirsty. Help us to safeguard its purity, accessibility, and beauty. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen (Source: CRS FoodFast Program)*

### **Our Event Speakers**

**Sister Rose Marie Tresp, RSM** serves as a member of the Sisters of Mercy Justice team as organizer and educator for sisters, associates, and ministries in 12 states mostly in the South. Since 2008, she has helped shape the Sisters of Mercy's Community's focus on immigration; the environment; women's rights; non-violence; and fighting poverty, prejudice, and racism. Sister is passionate about social justice, believing that individuals and the country must practice and embody Matthew 25 both individually and in the structures of government. Previous ministries included work as a biomedical ethicist in health care, as director of parish religious education programs, as a member of a community leadership team, and as a junior high school teacher. Sister worked for several years in Laredo, Texas and has participated in several programs in Mexico, Panama, El Salvador, and Honduras.

**Deacon Josh Klickman** is a deacon at St. Patrick Church in Fayetteville where he lives with his wife and 5 children. He was ordained a deacon in the Diocese of Raleigh in 2020. Before he was ordained as a deacon, he was active duty in the U.S. Army Special Forces for 24 years, most recently serving in the US Army Special Forces at Fort Bragg (now Fort Liberty). He works for the Diocese of Raleigh as the Human Life and Dignity Coordinator and has traveled with Catholic Relief Services overseas as a Global Fellow. At his parish his comprehensive role as deacon is as a catechist, a minister, and a parish council member.

**Some Questions for Personal Reflection after this Event** - The Church calls us to protect our neighbors and environment by helping to assure sources of healthy water for all our brothers and sisters. Please reflect on the following questions:

- Do I consciously consider my use of water in my daily activities?
- Am I consciously wasteful of my water usage?
- Do I frequently thank God for the blessing and gift of access to clean water?
- Can I commit to learning more about the crisis of the lack of clean water in our world?
- Do I ask for God's help so that I might better aid people in need in the USA and globally?
- Are there ways I can volunteer my time, serve as an advocate, or give my resources to help find a solution so that hundreds of millions of people can readily access clean water?

### **Access to Clean Water around the World**

According to the World Health Organization and UNICEF, 90% of the world's population used at least basic drinking water services, increasing from 88% in 2015. 700 and 800 million people (~ 1 in 10 people) do not have access to clean at least at the basic service level (see below for definition of levels), with 80% of people needing such access living in rural areas. By 2020, 84 countries accomplished universal access to at least basic drinking water services.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/global/assessing.html>

### **DRINKING WATER SERVICE LEVEL DEFINITION**

**Safely Managed** - Drinking water from an improved source that is accessible at home, available when needed, and free from fecal and priority chemical contamination.

**Basic** - Drinking water from an improved source, provided collection time is not more than 30 minutes for a round trip, including lining up and waiting.

**Limited** - Drinking water from an improved source, provided collection time exceeds 30 minutes for a round trip, including lining up and waiting.

**Unimproved** - Drinking water from an unprotected dug well or unprotected spring.

**Surface** - Drinking water directly from a river, dam, lake, pond, stream, canal, or irrigation canal.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/global/assessing.html#BasicDrinkingWaterServices>

**For More Information on Global Access to Clean Water and its effect on living standards, health outcomes, and life expectancy, consider visiting these webpages:**

<https://www.crs.org/usops-tags/water>

[https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/global/wash\\_statistics.html](https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/global/wash_statistics.html)

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/global/assessing.html#BasicDrinkingWaterServices>

<https://water.org/our-impact/water-crisis/global-water-crisis/>

<https://water.org/our-impact/water-crisis/health-crisis/>

<https://water.org/our-impact/water-crisis/global-sanitation-crisis>

<https://water.org/our-impact/water-crisis/womens-crisis/>

<https://water.org/our-impact/water-crisis/childrens-and-education-crisis>

<https://water.org/our-impact/water-crisis/economic-crisis/>

<https://water.org/our-impact/water-crisis/climate-crisis/>