ACCESSIBILITY TO POTABLE AND SAFE DRINKING WATER

The past 1st of September, in the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, the Pope Francis thanked for the «sister water, simple and useful to the life of the planet like no other thing. It is because of this, taking care of fountains and water basins is an urgent imperative. Today is it necessary to look further than immediacy more than ever, getting over the utilitarianism criteria of efficiency and productivity to the individual benefit. It urges to create shared projects and specific actions, taking into account that any privatization of the natural good that is water is unacceptable and can harm the human right of its access».

The Bishops’ Commission for Pastoral Ministry, on the occasion of this day, published a communication saying that they wanted to contribute with their thinking on two fundamental questions: water and energy. They said in this communication that the Pope Francis in his encyclical “Laudato Si’ On Care for our Common Home” have reminded us that “water is a scarce and indispensable resource and a fundamental right which conditions the exercise of other human rights.” (LS 185).

In our country, access to drinkable water is universal even though its quality can vary on the city. Sometimes, the population can suffer water use restrictions on summer, but those are isolated cases. When we go through long periods of drought, tensions on the use of water emerge between the different sectors: national, agriculture, industry and entertainment, and between one regions and others.

This is why it is important to call on the responsibility of each person and not only those who are engaged in politics to carry on a good management of it. We should not forget that the waste of water in agriculture, industry and entertainment is an act of solidarity with all those regions in which water is a scarce resource. Therefore, it urges that the use of water should not be used to ideological nor partisan matters and to guarantee an efficient management taking into account, over all, the common good. Creating messages of dialogue to manage water between political representatives and specific users could ease the tensions in the future. If the forecasts of Climate Change and its consequences are fulfilled for the Iberian Peninsula, in the best-case scenario would cost a decline of rainfall of an 35% in the next years. The situation of Spain is beyond compare with that of other places in the world. We sometimes forget that the fact that we can open a tap and watch water fall down is not possible for 2,100 millions of people according to World Health Organization.

In many countries, it is unattainable the use of water and soap to wash their hands. The absence of this gesture can cause the transmission of diseases as dysentery, cholera, hepatitis A and many others. We know the numbers that the World Health Organization provides on annual infant mortality caused by diarrhea provoked by contaminated water: 361,000 of an age below 5 years. For many organizations, this numbers are politically correct to not generate susceptibility in governments.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, only 15% of the population has water and soap. In the north of Africa and Western Asia the estimation is 76%. Giving this many information is not worth it if a conclusion is not created. It is important to change the personal mindset towards nature and especially towards water, knowing that it is a scarce resource, poorly distributed and more polluted by humans every time. It is necessary to teach ourselves and others, so we can achieve a culture of water that can finally consider water as world heritage. It is urgent to know its uses at a global scale, sustainability and way to contribute to improve or worsen them with ecosys-
	ems even though they are geographically far from where we live. We can see an example of each continent:

Afghanistan: Due to war, their aquifers are contaminated with chemical products of different nature and those that may be best preserved are in hands of armed groups who make access impossible to civil population. We know that wars, and over all, arms trade that support them are managed from offices in places far away from the conflict.

Democratic Republic of Congo: It is a country with many and abundant rivers, but ethnic conflicts, political instability and international macro projects that do not take into account the people in the decision-making processes, have produced drinkable water to be more limited. This is why epidemics are frequent.

Ukraine: 80% of the water that is given to the population comes from contaminated surface waters by agricultural chemical products. Furthermore, the water goes through spaces with radioactive material in them. Access to water is more difficult in war zones.

Papua New Guinea: Due to deforestation, groundwater have got more contaminated in the last few years. Nowadays, more than 60% of population have issues to get access to drinkable water. This have caused habitat loss and live hood of its population.

Haiti: After the earthquake that blighted the country, the poorest of America has not reestablished waterworks and they are also contaminated, even the water used in hospitals.

“...The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change” (LS 13).

ISABEL CUENCA ANAYA
Secretary-General
DECENT WORK
IS NOT A TALE

For the fourth year in a row, Justice and Peace has joined the more than two hundred institutions of Catholic inspiration that promote the initiative of the Church for the Decent Work to celebrate the World Day for the Decent Work of October the 7th, calling public acts, vigils and Eucharists all around Spain.

This day in which objectives are shared with the International Labor Organization (ILO), the trade-union global movement and the World Movement for Christian Workers, which promoted the initiative in Spain, is, doubtless, one of the key appointments for Church for the Decent Work, which develops a wide activity with a view to raise awareness and make visible the importance of extend to the society and the Church the defense of decent work.

The current call has placed decent work at the center of Church and in order to develop the topic, round tables, talks, and different acts like, over all, storytelling have been organized. Some dioceses has set up a contest of tales and other have written them for the event. With all of these public acts, the diocese prepared vigils and Eucharists where we could celebrate our commitment in the light of the Gospel and live communion of life and action in this day.

The motor groups in which we can find Caritas, Spanish Conference of Religious People (CONFER), Working Brotherhood of Catholic Action (HOAC), Central Electoral Board (JEC), Young Christian Workers (YCW) and Justice and Peace made a press release, material of thinking, a diptych with current information, a new manifesto, a liturgical script, and texts for the vigils, and stories. The new material of thinking has the title “Work: a person and society’s good serving life”, is oriented so it can be used with the methodology of see, judge and act and it is addressed to parishes, groups and Church for Decent Work entities.

The manifesto was communicated to the Spanish Episcopal Conference (through the Episcopal Committees of Secular Apostolate and the department of Pastoral Worker, of the Episcopal Committee on Migration Pastoral and the Episcopal Committee of Social Pastoral which support the initiative), to the manager of the Spanish office of the International Labor Organization and the General Secretaries of Worker Commission (CCOO), Workers General Union (UGT) and Worker Labor Union (USO).

FCO. JAVIER ALONSO
Vice-president, GCJP

SCREAM AND ACT
AGAINST POVERTY
ALL YEAR

As it is known, on October 17th the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was celebrated and, around it, many acts were performed during the Week Against Poverty. From the United Nations, in the year of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, poverty is presented as a human right and not only an economic concern derived from absence of inputs. It is a multidimensional issue characterized by multiple and interconnected violations of civil, political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights and people who live in poverty is regularly exposed to their denial of dignity and equality.

The Spanish Alliance against Poverty reports obscene inequality, which keeps on growing globally, and suggests politics of social political and cohesion nature. It highlights as concerns: Decent Work, education, health, nutrition, housing, respect for the environment, peace and prosperity. It advocates for being aware of the power of our decisions and complaints in our consumption, in reaching a more equal and a poverty-free society. It is only possible to achieve a fair and more habitable world with the commitment of passing these ambitions to the majority of the population.

The Church, through Pope Francis has started to celebrate a space for poverty, establishing the World Day of the Poor on Sunday XXXIII of the Ordinary Time of Liturgy, which this year is its second anniversary on November the 18th. The message of the Day of 2018 refers to the poor person that screams and that the Lord listens to and saves form their anguishs. “God’s response is an intervention to heal the wounds of the soul and the body, to restore the justice and to help resume the life with dignity. His response is also an invitation for all those who believe in Him to act in the same way. However, it is necessary to scream, to feel the necessity, making ourselves poor to work against precariousness and injustice. This is the only way to respond from authenticity, humbleness, and Christian love. Otherwise, we will stay in the organization of charitble dinners sometimes from the feeling of mercy, without working for the change of the injustice of structures. As long as we can distinguish the good, we will give its right meaning to wealth, we will believe in humanity and we will be able to share, transforming poverty in a daily song of praise.

MONTSE SERRANO, Sec. Tec.
Meeting of Justice and Peace in Europe in Barcelona and Manresa

From September 28th to October 1st, the International Workshop and the General Assembly of the Justice and Peace Commission Conference in Europe was held. The meeting which had taken place annually in different places of the continent has been welcomed by the Spanish Justice and Peace collaborating with the Diocesan Commission of Barcelona’s Justice and Peace because of the 50th anniversary (1968–2018) of the existence of both of them – the Diocesan Commission and the General Commission.

The International Workshop had the slogan “Water: Human Right and Source of Life”. It was initiated with an act of celebration of the anniversary of Justice and Peace in the bar association in presence of the Cardinal Archbishop of Barcelona, Juan José Omella, and the Territory and Sustainability Counsellor of the Government of Catalonia. In the seminar, conferences by different professionals on the right to water were imparted, as well as working groups regarding the problems of the difficulty to access and use of water in different European countries.

An important moment was the symbolic act organized with Catholic Movement for Climate and Connect Yourself for Justice, which consisted in walking for a prayer, “Vía Aqua” in all the natural space of the river Llobregat delta, in contemplation of the gift of water as “sister” as San Francisco de Assisi said. The route wanted to give testimony of the recovery of that river area as a protected area and heritage for future generations. The meeting finished on the 30th with the Bucharist and a guided visit to the Sagrada Familia Church. On October 1st, the General Assembly of Justice and Peace of Europe was celebrated in a place of great spiritual worth, the International Exercise Center in the Manresa Cave, where the illumination of Saint Ignatius of Loyola took place that inspired his “Spiritual Exercises”. In the course of the General Assembly, a new president was elected for Justice and Peace: Msgr. Noel Treanor, bishop of Down and Connor (North Ireland), which is the substitute for Msgr. Jean-Claude Hollerich, archbishop of Luxembourg and recently named President of the Commission of the Bishops Conference of the European Community. Furthermore, the General Assembly approved the working plan for the next 4 years inspired on the Pope Francis Laudato Si’ and the report of the activities of the commissions and representatives of the entities presents were listened to.

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSIONS FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE WALK TOGETHER TOWARDS WATER PROTECTION

The Day of the Justice and Peace in Europe was celebrated in the Season of Creation that starts on September the 1st with the World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation dedicated to the issue of water. Water is a human right indispensable to live with dignity and it is necessary for the fulfillment of other human rights as the right to live, to food, to adequate housing, to health and to education. Lately it is taking on an unfortunate social role as a means of transport for people that are looking for a non-violent future and that risk their lives to achieve it, when it has always been a way of communication between different cultures.

The water scarce due to overexploitation, contamination, inadequacy of infrastructures for the distribution and sanitation generate inequalities on its access, use and decision-making. The scarce of water and the inadequacies are also factors that contribute to generate violent conflicts. All of this threatens people’s lives and reduces their quality and impedes the equal human development.

10 000 people die every day due to the lack of safe access to drinkable water and 100 millions of people in Europe do not have access to clean drinkable water. We need a change in the paradigm related to water, form the domination to the sustainability, from the management of the water resources to the care of the ecosystems. Water should not be privatized but treated like a common good that needs to be managed in order to be available for all people.

The religious dimension of water is present in all religions in the world. Therefore, water can be turned into an important vector for the interreligious dialogue.

We can see the necessity of the promotion of water as a human right through education, ensuring the international solidarity. Europe Justice and Peace will contribute to that and to the public consultation about the Water Framework Directive. In the field of the Council of Europe will promote and support the implementation and development of norms and instruments related to this right.

Water is the source of life on Earth that we have to take care of individually and through the public institutions in each political level. Access to drinkable water and sanitation is a human right and the Christian Communities are invited to act in order to achieve its complete appreciation of the States and International Organizations.

Technical secretary, J&P of Spain
Before finalizing the scheduled two-year period for the implementation of the campaign, “if you take care of the planet, you fight poverty”, as a common challenge of the six ecclesiastical organizations that have joined the initiative of Connect Yourself for Justice have made an evaluation of their outcome that were valued positively. At the same time, we detected the necessity of keeping on the contribution to the matter. Thus, we took the decision of extending the campaign specifying the target points and a new reorganization of the work in this new stage which is now in process. A campaign based on the experience that our entities have in the development and fighting against poverty world, with the conviction that the care for nature cannot be separated for both bets.

The general objective for this new stage (2018-2020) will be: promoting the values and principles of the Laudato Si’ in the local Christian Communities, showing the relation between our lifestyles, the damage of the environment and the reality of the impoverished communities for the individual, communitarian and social transformation. This, consolidating the group work in the network of territories and defining the political incidence lines beyond the campaign. From now on, there will be two groups of coordinated work: 1. Animation of the Christian Community and 2. Social Transformation.

In the Vatican City, from October 3rd to October 28th, the General Assembly of Synod has been celebrated. It is a stage of a common way of the Church in the empathetic listening and missionary accompaniment of the youth, theological place that allows the renovation. The thinking of different abuses appears - abuses of power, economical, consciously sexual... - that this communities have to face, also from Church, thanking the courage of those who denounce the bad. The Synod stops in ways of vulnerability of youth: youth, unconcern; social exclusion for religious, ethnic or economic matters; disability. The Church has to be a specific alternative in the situations of discomfort. Music and beauty in the signs are valued as pastoral resources that call for a liturgical renovation. It is also evident the necessity of a greater value of woman in society and in the church, hoping a female presence in ecclesiastical organisms at all levels and in the decision-making in relation to the role of the ordained ministry. The final document does not forget about migration as a non-structural phenomenon and not as a temporary emergence. The Church should try an authentic human promotion from the welcoming, protection and integration. Other important aspects are the presence in the digital world and the help to assume the responsibilities in the professional and sociopolitical field through the Social Doctrine of the Church.

Synod of youth

On October 24th, the World Development Information Day, Manos Unidas, from its delegation in Cuenca, organized a round table with the title of this article in the Journalism School in the University of Castilla-La Mancha. Justice and Peace intervened in the round table through its person in charge of human rights, Emilio José Gómez. A hundred of students of the university took part. The event dealt with how communication and journalism, from the media as well as the department of communication of NGOs, can help to create a better world informing and transmitting about reality of impoverishment and inequality that millions of people suffer nowadays.

Furthermore, it highlighted the interest and importance that these events have for the future journalism and communication professionals. They shared the last trips' experiences of the mass media of Manos Unidas to Burundi and Benin, in which professionals of the sector were involved. The people were invited to do good, after analyzing some aspects of this concept. The track record has been communicated in a space of RNE-R5 "Five Minutes For Cooperation" and the experience of the past 24 years of life of the missionary Joaquín Briones in Togo, with the joy of the assisting students that interviewed him.

In this stage, a community of Christian organizations from the Mediterranean region have joined the initiative of Connect Yourself for Justice. We have detected the necessity of keeping on participating in this action, with the conviction that the care for nature cannot be separated from both bets.

On the 28th, the World Anti-Trafficking Day, and this group dedicated many reunions to think about the topic and develop a press release that was widely spread by mass media. Note that urged us "to go from ignorance to personal and collective responsibility to end with this way of slavery." That day, a meeting in the Madrid Parish was held and a big group of people aware of the topic participated, committed to the attention to victims and searching of alternatives. A Round Table was organized in which direct intervention experiences of entities committed against the human trafficking and its causes intervened in favor of the victims. Furthermore, they shared the experiences of transformation due to the encountering with the victims' suffering.

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Connect yourself for justice www.connectjustice.es

Doing good: Accurate communication for a shared development

Reflection, word, and commitment

The Ecclesiastical group against Human Trafficking has taken advantage of the opportunities found in their way and the society offers and the Church to think, be aware, sensitize, offer information and training and to denounce the unfair situations that the victims of human trafficking suffer. A terrible scourge that exists in the society and that affects Spain and millions of people in the world. As in previous years, on October 18th is the EU Anti-Trafficking Day, and this group dedicated many reunions to think about the topic and preparing a meeting about it and develop a press release that was widely spread by mass media. Note that urged us "to go from ignorance to personal and collective responsibility to end with this way of slavery." That day, a meeting in the Madrid Parish was held and a big group of people aware of the topic participated, committed to the attention to victims and searching of alternatives. A Round Table was organized in which direct intervention experiences of entities committed against the human trafficking and its causes intervened in favor of the victims. Furthermore, they shared the experiences of transformation due to the encountering with the victims' suffering.

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Ecclesiastical group against Human Trafficking (OECD) is an ecclesiastical body created by the Episcopal Conference, with the mission of promoting and defending human rights, justice and peace. It is a member of the Conference of Commissions for Justice and Peace in Spain; Spain’s Special Consultative Status with UNESCO; the European and Social Committee of the United Nations; the Spanish Commission for Justice and Peace; the Platform for International Cooperation of Immigrants (PICUM).