

PILGRIMAGE PAUSE #1:

Water Blessing | Baptism

(Laudato Si' sections 27–31, 235)

Pope Francis, in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, places significant emphasis on the importance of water, both for its spiritual significance and its practical implications for human life and the environment. He highlights the intrinsic value of water and its deep connection to the Christian sacrament of Baptism.

Pope Francis' reflections on water and Baptism in *Laudato Si'* offer a holistic perspective. They underscore both the spiritual significance of water as a source of new life and the ethical imperative to protect and ensure access to this vital resource for all people, particularly the poor and vulnerable.

Reflection: *What role does water play in your life? Do you take it for granted, or do you recognize the gift that it is? What can you do to help ensure that others today and in the future can enjoy God's gift of water, too?*