

September 2026

PRAYING WITH *the Holy Father*

Monthly Resource

for small group gatherings or classroom use



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
UNITED STATES APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

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September 2026

For the care of water

Opening Prayer

- Begin with the Sign of the Cross
- Prayer: The Daily Offering



Good Father, I know you are with me. Here I am on this new day. Place my heart once more with the Heart of your Son Jesus, who gives himself for me and who comes to me in the Eucharist. May your Holy Spirit make me his friend and apostle, available for his mission of compassion.

I place in your hands my joys and hopes, my works and sufferings, everything that I am and have, in communion with my brothers and sisters of this Worldwide Prayer Network.

With Mary, I offer you my day for the mission of the Church and for the prayer intentions of the Pope and my Bishop for this month. Amen.

Introduce Intention

The Holy Father's September 2026 Intention

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

The Pope Video

- If time allows, watch the Pope Video produced for this month.
- The video is available at <https://www.popesprayer.va/praywiththepope/>

Reflection

Edward McGillicuddy

Edward McGillicuddy is a chemist at a wastewater treatment plant in Westminster, Maryland who takes great inspiration from both St Francis of Assisi's love of nature and animals and St. Joseph's humble dedication to his work and family.

For the care of water

Among the recurring symbols used by the biblical authors, water maintains a dynamic position. It serves as a symbol of chaos and destruction, as seen in the Great Flood, but also a symbol of purification and new life, in the waters of baptism.

I have been thinking about water's purifying role a lot since I started working as a chemist at a wastewater treatment plant in Maryland. Using various chemical analyses, I ensure our plant is effectively removing pollutants, nutrients, and harmful bacteria from the incoming sewage before it is discharged into a receiving stream. This is a crucial process for maintaining public health that often goes unnoticed by society . . . except when we get odor complaints from our neighbors! I find great fulfillment in this role, since the water we discharge not only impacts the wildlife that depends on the river, but also cities downstream from us, who source their drinking water from the same river.

Before I started working here, I never thought about where the water came from when I turned on my faucet, or where it went after it had been used. Seeing the complex systems of screens, pumps, biological reactors and filters that all require 24/7 monitoring to function made me recognize the profound luxury it is having access to developed water infrastructure.

This month, let us pray with Pope Leo for those who work to keep water pure and flowing, and that all may have access to clean water. Let us be good stewards of the people and ecosystems downstream from us through a responsible use of our water, and let us pray that all might come to drink the living water of Christ—that which will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

Sacred Scripture

- Genesis 1: 6-7 - Then God said: Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other. God made the dome, and it separated the water below the dome from the water above the dome. And so it happened. "
- Romans 8:22-23- "We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies."

Saint Connection

St. Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-1680)

- Saint Kateri is the first canonized indigenous woman from North America. She is the patron saint of indigenous peoples, ecology, and the environment.
- Kateri was born in 1656 in the Kanienkehaka ("Mohawk") village of Ossernenon. She lived most of her life in present-day New York. Her mother was an Algonquin Catholic, and her father was a Kanienkehaka chief. Her mother's faith left a lasting impression on her.
- Saint Kateri spent much of her time before the Blessed Sacrament and always carried a Rosary with her. She died at age 24. Her last words were, "Jesus, I love You."

Discussion Questions

- Genesis shows God ordering the waters, while Romans speaks of creation "groaning." What do these passages reveal about our responsibility toward creation?
- How have you personally experienced the importance of clean water in your life, even in small or ordinary moments?
- What would responsible stewardship of creation look like in your daily life, and how does your faith guide it?

Closing Prayer

Lord of Life,

You have given us the gift of water, a source of fruitfulness, freshness, and hope. It quenches thirst, nourishes the earth, and heals wounds. We thank You because it is also a symbol of your grace and love that renews us through Baptism. Today we ask You to teach us to safeguard it with gratitude, justice, and responsibility. Forgive us for turning it into a commodity, forgetting that it is a universal gift, a right without borders, meant for all your children. May our care for water be a sign of love for the Creator and a commitment to the lives of the poor, educating new generations to value and protect the Earth's resources. Amen.

- End with the sign of the Cross.