

The Franciscan campaign to protect God's Earth from a wasteful consumption.



Think Outside the Bottle Pledge

- ❖ Opt for public tap water over bottled water.
- ❖ Support the efforts of local officials who prioritize strong public water systems over bottled water profits.

Why?

- 💧 Water is a human right and not a commodity to be bought and sold for profit.
- 💧 In 2007, people who live in the U.S. spent an estimated \$15 billion on varieties of bottled water.
- 💧 Tap water is a bargain. Bottled water costs about 500 times more than tap. If you're into really fancy labels, up to 1,000 times more.
- 💧 Making bottles to meet Americans' demand for bottled water required the equivalent of more than 17 million barrels of oil last year -- enough fuel for more than 100,000 U.S. cars for a year.
- 💧 Each year in the U.S., 4 billion pounds of plastic bottles that are recyclable - 60 million a day – end up in landfill or as roadside litter. Only a small number are recycled.
- 💧 About 40 percent of bottled water comes from the same sources as tap water. In blind taste tests, most consumers couldn't taste the difference between tap and bottled water.
- 💧 Tap water is a tooth saver. It has more fluoride than bottled water, which helps prevent tooth decay, especially in children.
- 💧 Bottled water isn't subject to the same stringent quality controls as tap water. It is no safer than tap water and sometimes much less safe.
- 💧 The United Nations estimates that more than 1 billion people worldwide currently lack access to safe drinking water and that by 2025, two-thirds of the world's population will not have access to drinking water.
- 💧 Solutions to ensuring water as a fundamental human right require people acting together and standing up for public water systems.

It takes over 500 years for a plastic to decompose in the environment. Instead, they accumulate in ever greater amounts on land and in water. The results are overwhelming. In the North Pacific Ocean, currents have swept together a floating island of plastic twice the size of Texas and composed of tires, toys, plastic bags and bottles and other plastic waste. Rather than dispersing, it has doubled in size in the last 6 years, trapping birds and killing fish.