


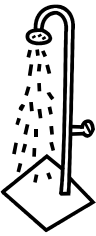






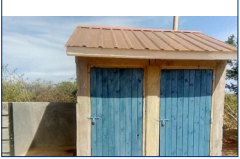










LIVING WATER

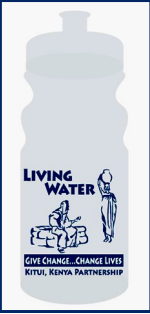
Lent 2024

Water is a gift from God

Help support the lives of Kenyan children through the Living Water Program: giving change helps provide clean water to improve hygiene and health. Your change is vitally important as drought conditions continue to worsen in Kitui making clean water more scarce. Share the precious gift of access to clean water with your Kenyan brothers and sisters in Christ.

<p>Dear Parents and Educators,</p> <p>Thank you for participating in the Living Water program. Using the reflections on the calendar during prayer time will make this a more meaningful experience, helping you to learn more about the lives of our brothers and sisters in Kitui. Shaded boxes have additional information on the back page. Look for the corresponding color in the Supplemental Information section to learn more!</p> <p>Thank you for your support!</p>			<p>2/14</p> <p>ASH WEDNESDAY</p> <p>Use this prayer to pray for those in Kitui to have access to clean water.</p> 	<p>2/15</p> <p>The diocese of Kitui, Kenya and the Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis formed a partnership of sharing in 2004.</p> 	<p>2/16</p> <p>Through the Living Water program, you will learn how to "accompany" and "walk with" Kenyans in solidarity. What does it mean to "walk with in solidarity?" You will also see how your donations help improve access to clean water in Kitui.</p> 	<p>2/17</p>
<p>2/18</p> <p>Water affects many aspects of daily life, including people's health.</p>  <p>A lack of clean water also affects good hygiene.</p>	<p>2/19</p> <p>Kitui often experiences severe drought or flooding. Both make it difficult to have access to clean water.</p>  <p>Dried river bed</p>	<p>2/20</p> <p>Millions of people in Kenya, including Kitui, do not have access to good sanitation resources or toilets.</p> <p>Why do you think clean water is important for people to live healthy lives?</p>	<p>2/21</p>  <p>This is an old pit latrine, which is an outhouse without a seat...you stand up the whole time.</p>	<p>2/22</p> <p>With improper waste habits, available water has been contaminated. This increases the risk for water-borne diseases.</p>	<p>2/23</p> <p>Many people in Kitui have been sick with typhoid and dysentery from drinking dirty water.</p> 	<p>2/24</p>  <p>How would your life be different if you did not have access to clean water or sanitation?</p>
<p>2/25</p> <p>This video from CRS highlights the importance of good hygiene and sanitation.</p> 	<p>2/26</p> <p>WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) clubs were formed at schools to help students learn good hygiene habits.</p> 	<p>2/27</p> <p>Pit latrines (toilets) were built at two water dams and three schools to help keep water clean and increase good hygiene.</p>	<p>2/28</p>  <p>New and improved pit latrine.</p>	<p>2/29</p> <p>Pope Francis has said it is necessary that clean water and sanitation be available to all.</p> <p>(Address after Angelus prayer, March 21, 2021)</p>	<p>3/1</p> <p>Community members have been trained how to gather, transport, and use water, to help decrease the risk of water related diseases.</p> 	<p>3/2</p> <p>Prayer intention for Kitui:</p> <p>Let us pray for all those in Kitui who are sick or dying because of unclean water and poor sanitation and hygiene. May God provide safe water for all.</p>
<p>3/3</p>  <p>Children processing in at 2023 Ordination Mass, Kitui</p>	<p>3/4</p> <p>This is a video from Caritas Kitui thanking all donors for their support.</p> 	<p>3/5</p> <p>Your donations help the Diocese of Kitui address access to clean water!</p> 	<p>3/6</p> <p>You are improving the lives of your Kenyan brothers and sisters!</p> 	<p>3/7</p> <p>How does the story of the woman at the well relate to the Living Water program?</p> 	<p>3/8</p> <p>Be sure to put your saved coins into the Living Water bottle and return it to your parish or school!</p> 	<p>3/9</p> <p>Enjoy this video of children in Nuu singing a song of thanks to all who participate in Living Water.</p> 

Give Change...Change Lives



The Living Water program is designed to connect you in a special way with children in Kitui, Kenya. By learning how children and families in Kitui struggle to meet their basic physical and spiritual needs, we can accompany them through prayer and our fundraising efforts and help them experience their right to a life of dignity through living water, just like Jesus offered the Samaritan woman at the well. This year, the program focuses on the relationship between access to clean water, sanitation and health.

Here's what to do:

- Pray Kitui has an abundant 2024 rainy season
- Donate money by dropping coins in the Living Water bottle
- Count the coins you collected and return them (or ask your parents to write a check for that amount) to your school or parish.

ASANTE SANA! ("Thank you" in Swahili)



Thank you for participating in the Living Water program this Lenten Season. You are walking alongside your Kenyan sisters and brothers, helping children and their families grow in their physical and spiritual needs. This is an echo of the Lenten story of Jesus offering “spiritual water” to the Samaritan woman at the well, an offer of physical and spiritual nourishment. Without water, basic hygiene becomes difficult, crops cannot grow, livestock cannot survive, and baptisms cannot happen. As our friend Peter Kimeu, who helped us develop our partnership in Kitui, said,

“What it comes down to...is that water is life.”

This year's Living Water program explores how access to clean water, sanitation and good hygiene helps us stay healthy. The calendar on the other side is a Lenten prayer guide for children, families and classes to encourage learning and sharing about faith and life in Kitui. The program may be used as you find appropriate in your parish or school. Thank you for accompanying the Kenyan children and families in our partnership Diocese of Kitui.

If you have questions, contact Janine Ricker at rickerj@archspm.org.

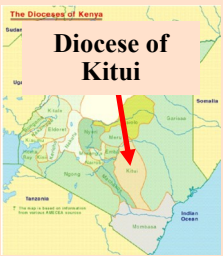
ASANTE SANA (Thank you in Swahili)

Supplemental Information:



Our relationship with the Diocese of Kitui is a partnership that exists in recognition of our communion in the Body of Christ for the mutual sharing of our faith, experiences, culture and resources, gifts to us from God. Walking “with” someone suggests that both are equal and listen and learn from each other, rather than one feeling better than (walking in front) or less than (walking behind) the other.

The Diocese of Kitui is in the country of Kenya on Africa’s eastern coast. Kitui has more than 30 parishes which support more than 430 smaller, satellite churches. Kitui is in a semi-arid region, and has a dry, hot climate prone to drought. Without water, it is difficult to do even the most basic hygienic and cleaning activities.



Lack of rain water makes it very difficult to grow crops needed to feed families and livestock. And without clean water, bacteria and viruses can spread. The Diocese of Kitui, through Caritas Kitui, trains communities on good hygiene practices during times of drought.

To date, your donations to the Living Water program have helped provide 77 water tanks at 47 schools! Each tank holds 2,500 gallons of rain water. Schools are often locations where children and families get clean water. Additionally, your donations have provided community loans for food security programs, drought-resistant farming techniques, emergency food relief, and sanitation improvement and education.



Water is needed for almost all areas of life: health, hygiene, baptisms, food crops, and livestock, and more. This is “Living Water” and your donations support the lives of many in Kitui.

Thank you for your vital support!

