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Hello!

I write on behalf of my colleagues on the faculty at Carroll College. We look forward to meeting you at our academic scholarship event on November 8. We are delighted to offer additional scholarships through this event but we also see it as an opportunity to give you a clearer view of the educational experience you can expect at Carroll.

Your visit day will include a micro-class on water purification. You will hear from faculty members in multiple departments on how their research and teaching leads them to see the nature and importance of water. We will provide all the materials and we ask only that you work collaboratively with other students.

We will also hold individual interviews in which you will meet for about twelve minutes with a pair of faculty members. In preparation, please read the two short texts in the attachment. You will be asked some of the following questions – if the initial conversation goes well, we may not cover all of them. 1) What did you take away from comparing a religious and a political text on water? Did you see more agreement or conflict between them? Is one approach better and, if so, why? 2) After reading the two texts, do you see any connections between rights and responsibilities on an issue like water? We aim to provide you the opportunity to demonstrate the curiosity and the intellectual ambition that we at Carroll have found to provide a firm basis for scholarly excellence. We're hoping for a conversation, not a prepared presentation.

Please, let me or my colleagues in our admissions office know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Alex Street, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Political Science and International Relations
Pre-law advisor,
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Reading Handout, first page of two:

Source: Section of the ENCYCLICAL LETTER - *LAUDATO SI'* - OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME, 2015

II. THE ISSUE OF WATER

27. Other indicators of the present situation have to do with the depletion of natural resources. We all know that it is not possible to sustain the present level of consumption in developed countries and wealthier sectors of society, where the habit of wasting and discarding has reached unprecedented levels. The exploitation of the planet has already exceeded acceptable limits and we still have not solved the problem of poverty.

28. Fresh drinking water is an issue of primary importance, since it is indispensable for human life and for supporting terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Sources of fresh water are necessary for health care, agriculture and industry. Water supplies used to be relatively constant, but now in many places demand exceeds the sustainable supply, with dramatic consequences in the short and long term. Large cities dependent on significant supplies of water have experienced periods of shortage, and at critical moments these have not always been administered with sufficient oversight and impartiality. Water poverty especially affects Africa where large sectors of the population have no access to safe drinking water or experience droughts which impede agricultural production. Some countries have areas rich in water while others endure drastic scarcity.

29. One particularly serious problem is the quality of water available to the poor. Every day, unsafe water results in many deaths and the spread of water-related diseases, including those caused by microorganisms and chemical substances. Dysentery and cholera, linked to inadequate hygiene and water supplies, are a significant cause of suffering and of infant mortality. Underground water sources in many places are threatened by the pollution produced in certain mining, farming and industrial activities, especially in countries lacking adequate regulation or controls. It is not only a question of industrial waste. Detergents and chemical products, commonly used in many places of the world, continue to pour into our rivers, lakes and seas.

30. Even as the quality of available water is constantly diminishing, in some places there is a growing tendency, despite its scarcity, to privatize this resource, turning it into a commodity subject to the laws of the market. Yet *access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights*. Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because *they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity*. This debt can be paid partly by an increase in funding to provide clean water and sanitary services among the poor. But water continues to be wasted, not only in the developed world but also in developing countries which possess it in abundance. This shows that the problem of water is partly an educational and cultural issue, since there is little awareness of the seriousness of such behaviour within a context of great inequality.

31. Greater scarcity of water will lead to an increase in the cost of food and the various products which depend on its use. Some studies warn that an acute water shortage may occur within a few decades unless urgent action is taken. The environmental repercussions could affect billions of people; it is also conceivable that the control of water by large multinational businesses may become a major source of conflict in this century.

Reading Handout, second page of two:

Source: section of The Constitution of the State of Montana, from https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0000/article_0090/part_0010/sections_index.html

ARTICLE IX

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Section 1. PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT.

(1) The state and each person shall maintain and improve a clean and healthful environment in Montana for present and future generations. (2) The legislature shall provide for the administration and enforcement of this duty. (3) The legislature shall provide adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation and provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources.

Section 2. RECLAMATION. All lands disturbed by the taking of natural resources shall be reclaimed. The legislature shall provide effective requirements and standards for the reclamation of lands disturbed.

Section 3 . WATER RIGHTS. (1) All existing rights to the use of any waters for any useful or beneficial purpose are hereby recognized and confirmed. (2) The use of all water that is now or may hereafter be appropriated for sale, rent, distribution, or other beneficial use, the right of way over the lands of others for all ditches, drains, flumes, canals, and aqueducts necessarily used in connection therewith, and the sites for reservoirs necessary for collecting and storing water shall be held to be a public use. (3) All surface, underground, flood, and atmospheric waters within the boundaries of the state are the property of the state for the use of its people and are subject to appropriation for beneficial uses as provided by law. (4) The legislature shall provide for the administration, control, and regulation of water rights and shall establish a system of centralized records, in addition to the present system of local records.

Section 4. CULTURAL RESOURCES. The legislature shall provide for the identification, acquisition, restoration, enhancement, preservation, and administration of scenic, historic, archeologic, scientific, cultural, and recreational areas, sites, records and objects, and for their use and enjoyment by the people.