

We thank God for those parts of the world that do not suffer from water scarcity. We pray that these populations will be able to manage water wisely, remembering the suffering of all those who are not as fortunate as we are. *Let us pray...*

For our earth, victim of over-exploitation, let us pray the Lord to touch our consciences and awaken us from our lethargy, so that we can commit ourselves to restoring the earth to its original state. *Let us pray...*

Guide n. 1: Let us be united spiritually to all the Sisters of Charity scattered throughout the world while feeling committed to witness concretely that water is also a gift of God. Let us pray together:

Our Father...

Guide n. 2: Let us recite *together* the prayer to implore the Lord for the gift of water.

Lord, give us water. You are the God of the poor and the little ones, do not close your ears to the cry of the poor that we are. Look at our land, which is dying for lack of water. The forest and the savannah are burning, causing the disappearance of many animal and plant species. You are the God of the impossible, our refuge; you who gave water through the desert to your thirsty people, do not abandon us in our thirst. Forgive our sins against nature that we have committed and continue to commit. Jesus our brother, intercede for us with the Father, so that the humanity you came to redeem may be saved from thirst for water. You who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen!



Guide n. 1: May the Lord bless us, protect us from every evil and lead us to eternal life.

Assembly: *Amen!*

 **Final hymn.**



ARTISANS OF FRATERNITY *You are the vine, and we are the branches!*



Prayer for the month of March 2025

 **Song.**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*Every year, on the 22nd March,
we celebrate the World Day of the Water,
a fundamental moment to raise the awareness
of the public opinion on the crucial importance
of fresh water and to promote a sustainable
handling of this vital resource because
“Water is God’s caress”.*



Guide n. 1: Faced with the challenges of climate change, population growth and the need for sustainable development, water handling is a global priority. International collaboration and the implementation of innovative policies are essential to ensure a future in which water, the source of life, also becomes a pillar of peace and progress for all.

Guide n. 2: Let us listen to some excerpts from the Encyclical "*Laudato Si'*" of Pope Francis that help us understand better the importance of water as a common and precious good.

Reader n.1: (par. 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.*».

Reader n.2: (par. 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*».

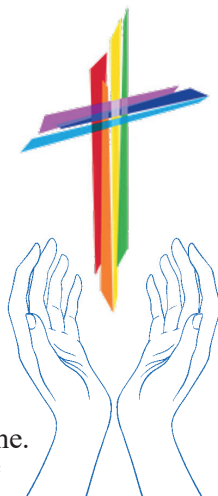
Reader n.3: (par. 31) «*Greater scarcity of water will lead to an increase in the cost of food and the various products which depend on its use. Some studies warn that an acute water shortage may occur within a few decades unless urgent action is taken. The environmental repercussions could affect billions 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*».

Reader n.1: (par. 84) «*Our insistence that each human being is an image of God should not make us overlook the fact that each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God*».

Moments of silence.

Guide n. 1: Let us pray Psalm 63 (62), in two alternate choirs.

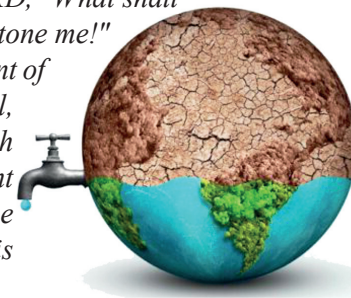
O God, you are my God *
 it is you I seek!
 For you my body yearns; *
 for you my soul thirsts,
 In a land parched, lifeless, *
 and without water.
 I look to you in the sanctuary *
 to see your power and glory.
 For your love is better than life; *
 my lips shall ever praise you!
 I will bless you as long as I live; *
 I will lift up my hands, calling on your name.
 My soul shall be sated as with choice food, *
 with joyous lips my mouth shall praise you!



I think of you upon my bed, *
 I remember you through the watches of the night
 You indeed are my saviour, *
 and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.
 My soul clings fast to you; *
 your right hand upholds me.
 Glory be to the Father...

Reader n.2: The Word of God: Exodus (17, 1-6)

«*From the desert of Sin, the whole Israelite community journeyed by stages, as the LORD directed, and encamped at Rephidim. Here there was no water for the people to drink. They quarrelled, therefore, with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to a test?" Here, then, in their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "Why did you ever make us leave Egypt? Was it just to have us die here of thirst with our children and our livestock?" Therefore, Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? A little more and they will stone me!" The LORD answered Moses, "Go over there in front of the people, along with some of the elders of Israel, holding in your hand, as you go, the staff with which you struck the river. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb. Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink." This Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel*».



Moments of silence.

Guide n. 2: Let us present to the Lord our prayers of intercession as we answer together: *We praise you Lord, for our sister Water, which is very useful and humble, precious and pure.*

Lord, we pray you for the continents, which suffer terribly from lack of water; we implore you for all the regions where water is scarce; stretch out your hand and make water gush forth to quench their thirst. *Let us pray...*

Water is often used as a sign of purification and in ceremonies of reconciliation to restore peace and split bridges. We pray for all countries that share common water sources so that they will strive to provide their people with the necessary water to cultivate the land and live with dignity. *Let us pray...*