



UN WATER

22 MARCH WORLD WATER DAY

Introduction

World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2 billion people living without access to safe water. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis. A core focus of World Water Day is to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030. The theme of World Water Day in 2022 is **GROUNDWATER - MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE**. Out of sight, under our feet, groundwater is a hidden treasure that enriches our lives. Almost all of the liquid freshwater in the world is groundwater. As climate change gets worse, groundwater will become more and more critical. We need to work together to sustainably manage this precious resource. (www.worldwaterday.org)





Biblical Text

Is 41:17-18

The afflicted and the needy seek water in vain, their tongues are parched with thirst. I, the LORD, will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. I will open up rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the broad valleys; I will turn the wilderness into a marshland, and the dry ground into springs of water.



Short Reflection

Even though from the beginning of the creation account, water represents a potentially dangerous element – waters of the primordial world needed to be confined (Gen 1:6-10) – accessibility to (drinking) water is the key condition for life. Thanks to irrigation coming from the four rivers (Gen 2:10), the garden of Eden could flourish and offer a unique place for all creatures.

The people of Israel were reminded it is God who provides the “seasonal rain” (Deut 11:14-15) sustaining agriculture of the country and thus the very lives of all its inhabitants. When God – due to the wicked behavior of his chosen ones – withheld the gift of water (1Kgs 17-18), famine and death were harvested in large. Thus, the lesson that not only Israel learned is to attain God’s plan so that life might be preserved.

With Jesus who is the source of “living water” (John 7:37-38) – an image of the Spirit, he would give – water assumes an even deeper sense; it recalls our baptismal renewal (Rom 6:4). Still, it maintains also its essential symbolism expressing the loving care of God for all, as the text of Isaiah poetically indicates.



Mission Involvement

While water has a strong spiritual significance in the Christian tradition as a gift of God, around the entire globe, human misuse and pollution threaten this essential resource, and billions lack any access to clean water. What we could do.


- The WHO guideline for minimum requirement of 100 litres/ day /person. Account for how much water you use in a day.

- Do some research on how much water an average person living in a slum or a village uses in your locality.

- Highlight the suffering of women due to water crisis and search for solution together with women.

- Use campaigns in your parish or join with other organizations to advocate for change in systemic injustice towards distribution of water wherever you are.

- Sign/start a petition to establish laws and infrastructure for safe water; or speak out in spaces of influence – UN, regional bodies, to local politicians.

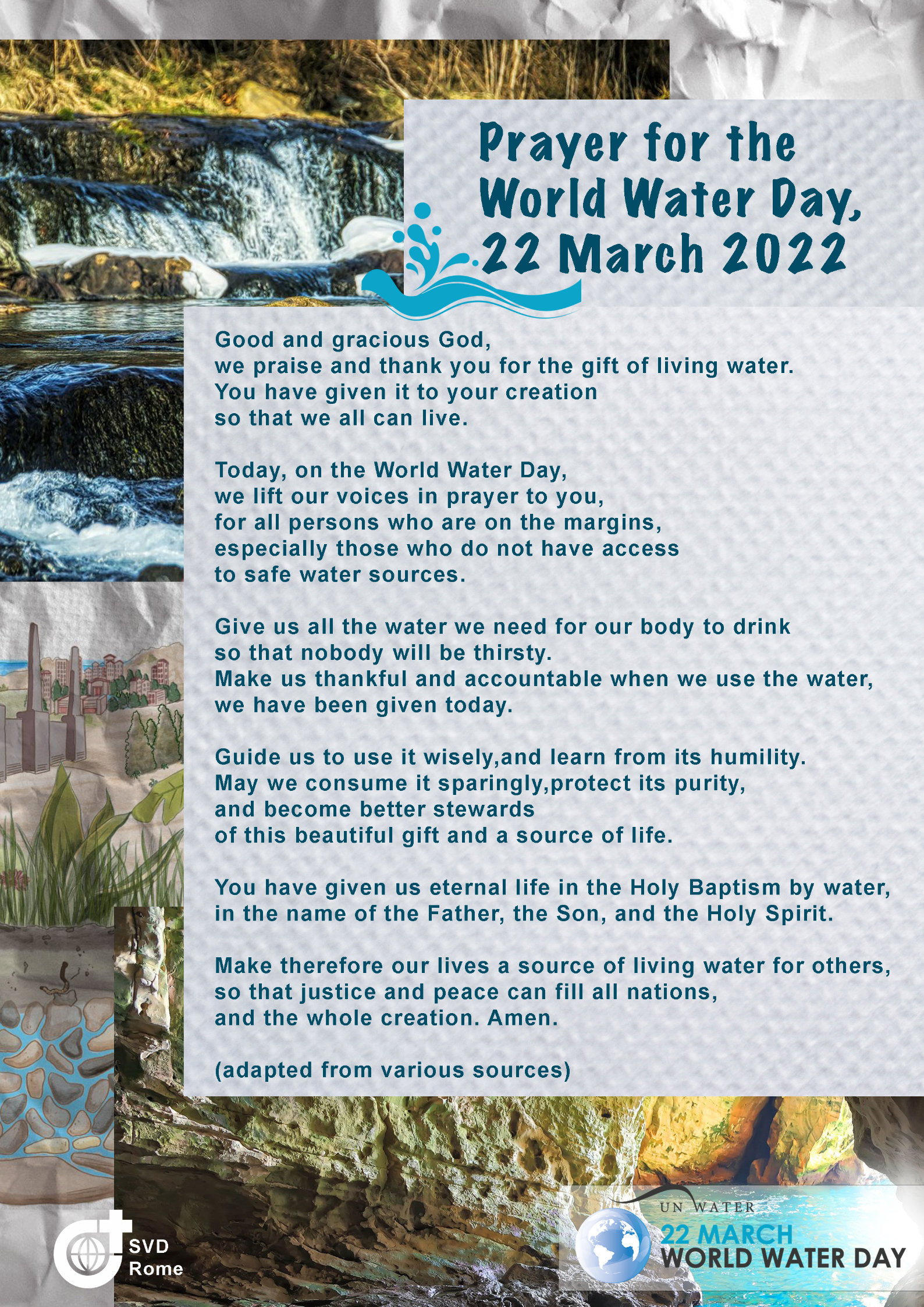


- Partner with organizations working on supplying water for at-risk communities in low-economic countries, either by sending your donations or volunteering to help where possible

- Discuss with your church leaders about water pollution issues and what you can do together to help.

- Whenever you can, amplify the cries of the polluted rivers, degraded oceans and contaminated underground water.

- Keep your neighboring water ecosystem clean by simple actions such as (a) Not pouring fat drippings or household chemicals down the drain; (b) Using minimal detergent or opting for an earth-friendly brand products; (c) Minimizing the use of pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides for your farming or gardening.



Prayer for the World Water Day, 22 March 2022



**Good and gracious God,
we praise and thank you for the gift of living water.
You have given it to your creation
so that we all can live.**

**Today, on the World Water Day,
we lift our voices in prayer to you,
for all persons who are on the margins,
especially those who do not have access
to safe water sources.**

**Give us all the water we need for our body to drink
so that nobody will be thirsty.
Make us thankful and accountable when we use the water,
we have been given today.**

**Guide us to use it wisely, and learn from its humility.
May we consume it sparingly, protect its purity,
and become better stewards
of this beautiful gift and a source of life.**

**You have given us eternal life in the Holy Baptism by water,
in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

**Make therefore our lives a source of living water for others,
so that justice and peace can fill all nations,
and the whole creation. Amen.**

(adapted from various sources)