



World Water Day March 22, 2014

The United Nations has established March 22, 2014 as World Water Day. For the Catholic community, this is an opportunity to reflect on water as a basic human right, rather than a commodity to be bought and sold.

According to the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, when water is viewed as a commodity, "There is a risk of not seeing one's brothers and sisters as human beings possessing the right to a dignified existence, but rather seeing them as simply customers," which leads to making water and sanitation available only to those who can pay.

As Catholics we should view water as sacred, and essential to all human life.

We are proud of TCDSB's decision in 2011 to make a commitment to our schools and workplaces becoming bottled water free, and we applaud the student leaders at the time who advocated so passionately for the Board to move in this direction.

As World Water Day approaches, let us take time to pray for those who do not have access to safe and clean drinking water, and consider supporting Development and Peace, ShareLife and other Catholic charities who are supporting clean water projects around the world.

A prayer for water is attached for your use at school and at home.

Sincerely,

Angela Gauthier
Director of Education

Jo-Ann Davis
Chair of the Board

TCDSB World Day of Water Prayer

God of hope, You have given us this promise through Scripture:

*“When the poor and needy seek water,
and there is none,
and their tongue is parched with thirst,
I the LORD will answer them,
I the God of Israel will not forsake them.” (Is. 41:17)*

Today, we pray for all those who struggle each day for clean water.
In Your mercy, may they be refreshed by Your wells of love.
Open our hands, our hearts, and our minds
to be agents of Your love and mercy
to those who are trying to survive with limited access
to this basic human need.

May You, the Water of Life,
‘open rivers on the bare heights,
create fountains in the midst of the valleys,’
and quench our thirst.

Give us strength to draw from Your wells,
so we can pass the cup to others.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.