

# Prayer of the Month

## August 2007

In the beginning, you created a beautiful earth for your children to enjoy. Father, we are truly blessedly surrounded by breath-taking landforms, dazzling oceans, and other natural wonders. Thank you for lovingly providing these things and more for us. We are also blessed with the luxury of clean drinking water, an essential for sustaining our lives and fueling our mission as your shepherds. We pray, however, for those of your flock who do not have access to clean water. We pray for their health, and we pray for the strength and intelligence to find a way to provide clean water for them. We pray that people in developed nations such as ours realize the crisis and act with us, in faith and love for you and your son, Jesus Christ. We seek to share the wealth of your gifts to us, so all may know your love. Guide us with your wisdom and gentle hand, in your name, AMEN

## Did you know?

- Approximately 14,000 people in the world will die from drinking contaminated water in the time it takes you to eat a meal in a restaurant with an untouched glass of cool water beside your plate.
- According to the UN, 1.1 billion people in the world do not have access to safe drinking water. At the World Summit in Johannesburg in 2002, UN Millennium Development pledged to reduce that number by half by 2015.
- Even in the United States, people worry about the condition of their water. Almost 50% of American consumers worry about possible health contaminants in their drinking water.
- A child dies every fifteen seconds from a water-related disease.
- Lack of access to clean drinking water is a leading cause of death and disease in developing countries. It will cause about 3.3 billion illnesses and kill more than 2 million people a year.
- Millions of children will suffer from stunted growth and development because they have no clean water to drink.
- Drinking unsafe, unpotable water can lead to such diseases as cholera, hepatitis, and typhoid, as well as intestinal worms, bacterial infections, and other maladies that cause extreme diarrhea.
- Women in developing countries spend an average of six hours per day collecting water — time that could be spent parenting, learning, or working.

## Resources

<http://www.wwf.org/>

<http://www.waterhealth.com/>

<http://www.savethechildren.org/newsroom/2007/clean-drinking-water.html>

[http://environment.about.com/od/environmentalevents/a/waterdayqa\\_2.htm](http://environment.about.com/od/environmentalevents/a/waterdayqa_2.htm)

If you have suggestions for parish prayer – whether it be a theme or a specific cause – please contact Susan Hawryluk at [sewsoo@aol.com](mailto:sewsoo@aol.com), or (401) 728-4382.