



49/2016

Letter to the People of God

of H.L. Mgr. Mario Grech

Bishop of Gozo

Prayers for Rain

Recently, while visiting some parishes, I noticed various persons beseeching God to send us rain. This faith our people have in Divine Providence pleases and consoles me, because this is another sign of our people's ample faith in God.

When I consider that this year we hardly had any rain, and last year's rainfall was so scarce that our soil was parched, I am making an appeal to Christians to follow the example of those I mentioned above and together ask God to bless us by providing timely rainfall.

Water is an essential element for life. Therefore, while we ask God to send water from the sky, we pray also for our people to be more aware of the responsibility we all have to control ourselves and avoid wastage and stealing of water. Natural water is part of the common good and so we must not abuse it. Everyone is entitled to have water, but all of us have the duty to use it in a measured way for the sake of future generations.

As the month of All Souls is approaching, I recommend prayers for rain through the intercession of our brethren who departed into eternity. This we do by visiting the cemeteries that, to us, are "holy ground". There is communion between us who are still in this world, the souls in Purgatory, and those who are seeing God face to face. This union of heaven and earth is experienced also through intercessional prayers.

Together with Saint Francis of Assisi we say: "Blessed are you, Lord, in our brother water, who is most necessary, neutral, valuable, and pure." ("Song of Creation").
Issued from The Bishop's Curia, today, Wednesday, 26th October, 2016.

✠ Mario Grech
Bishop of Gozo

To be read in Masses during the weekend 29th and 30th October.