

The Ocean...Receptacle of all our Actions

Ocean Reflection Series

Photo: Kristin McDermott

MESSAGE FROM

POPE FRANCIS

'The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.

In many parts of the planet, the elderly lament that once beautiful landscapes are now covered with rubbish.'

Pope Francis, Laudato Si #21

CONNECTIONS AT THE UN

The United Nations is deeply committed to educating communities on the importance of protecting our oceans. Secretary General Antonio Guterres stated at an event this past February that 'Oceans ... are crucial for global food security and human health, they contribute to eradicating poverty, and they are the primary regulator of the global climate. Thriving oceans are closely linked with our health, maritime security, peace and prosperity.

Despite this, oceans are continually degraded by human activities and threatened by climate change, marine pollution, the extraction of marine resources, and the destruction of coastal habitats and landscapes.' We must take his words to heart and be conscious consumers.

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1277213_Feb_SG_message_IPU_Oceans.pdf



TAKE ACTION

- CREATE A GROUP TO STUDY SUSTAINABLE GOAL 14 WHICH FOCUSES ON CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES.
- BRAINSTORM WAYS YOU CAN HELP REALIZE THESE GOALS. SEND YOUR IDEAS TO YOUR LOCAL AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS.

Reflection



Take a walk along a drain, stream, river, estuary or beach....notice pollution and pick up rubbish.

Find out who else comes to visit, use or lives in the area...(human and non-human!)

From your walk, draw or take pictures. Write a poem, short story or reflection on what you discover on your journey.



Prayer

Creator God

Please forgive us....as we mix waters and chemicals and fracture the earth.

Please forgive us ...as poisonous water leaches into aquifers...

Please forgive us...as creation groans in pain and agony...

Creator God

Please forgive us...as we throw that straw on the ground...

Please forgive us ...as we ignore the plastic bag blowing around...

Please forgive us ...as we watch in horror of the giant plastic island gyres growing out to sea

Please forgive us...as we say how did this come to be?

Thank you, God, ...for collaboration.

For providing us with the capacity to see anew creation in all forms...me and you.

Thank you for tree planting days and slow-food days.

Thank you for beach clean-up days and clean stream days

Thank you for giving me voice to air my concern to councilors on lack of action

Thank you for marches and, rallies and community days

Thank you, God, ...for enabling me to action.

DID YOU KNOW?

Every single action that we as humans do has an impact greater than our immediate surroundings – in this case, the Earth's oceans have absorbed our waste, rubbish and pollutants. During the past decade, our awareness has grown, of the harmful impact that our actions have had on the oceans.

The harmful impact on all freshwater tributaries has a flow on effect to the impact of marsh, wetland, estuary and harbor ecosystems – that then moves into the seas and oceans. Many of these ecosystems provide the nursery for a considerable proportion of marine life. Plant species within these ecosystems can capture or trap some of these pollutants...but too much pollutant can affect the health of the entire ecosystem.