

"Whether believers or not, we are agreed today that the earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone."

Laudato Si, 93, Pope Francis

EARTH ACTION INITIATIVE

Sponsored by WUCWO (World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations)

To all schools, service clubs, and Church organisations:

CHOOSE ANY SATURDAY IN SEPTEMBER, 2019

CALL TO ACTION: In the face of the plastic and toxic waste crisis that is devastating our oceans, lakes, and rivers, all peoples of the world are called upon to eliminate any further damage to the Earth's water resources and to clean up the damage already sustained.



All life is interconnected. In a similar way, all pollution is interconnected in that the majority of pollutants entering our water systems come from activities on land. Human activities along the coastlines and far inland affect the health of our oceans (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – USA). As a result:

**+ 14
BILLION**

Pounds of trash end up in oceans every year (seastewards)

70%

Of industrial waste is dumped into water (National Geographic)

2 MILLION

Tons of sewage, industrial and agricultural waste are discharged into the world's water every day (UN WWAP)



Every year, more people die from unsafe water than from all forms of violence, including war (UN - Water for life decade)

WHAT CAN YOU DO:

- Organize a plastic and waste clean-up event at your nearest ocean beach, lakefront, or riverbank, along roadways, ditches, and in public spaces.
- Organize an event to educate the public about the plastic waste crisis.
- Advocate for better landfill practices particularly in areas subject to environmental conditions that could result in waste entering a water system.
- Advocate for the elimination of single-use plastics and the re-use and recycling of disposable plastics.
- Change your ways:
 - 1) Reduce your own use of plastic products.
 - 2) Re-use your plastic containers as often as possible.
 - 3) Recycle plastics that you can no longer use.
 - 4) Ensure that plastics are not contaminated (i.e. food waste) before recycling.

