

Presented by OLL's Education Commission

WORLD NEWS

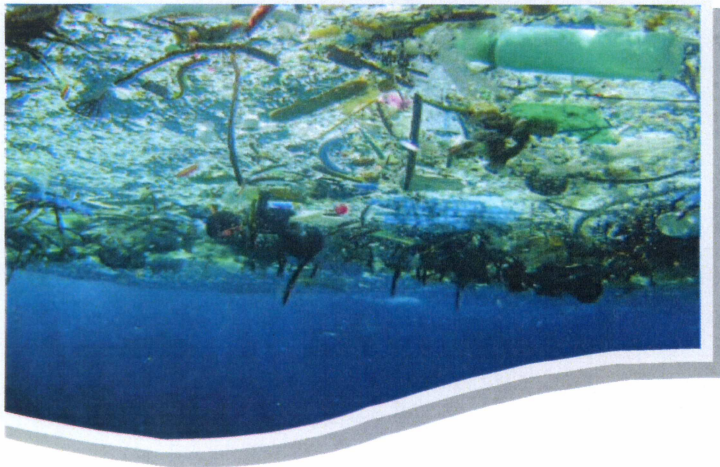
Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home...

Oceans in Distress

As Pope Francis wrote in his 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si: On the Care of our Common Home*, "Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience." One part of creation crying out for our attention today is our oceans.

Earth's oceans are suffering multiple problems, one of which is that burning fossil fuels leads to acidification of the oceans as they absorb man-made carbon emissions. Greater acidity threatens coral reefs and the development of shellfish, which in turn affects the whole food chain as well as the shellfish industry.

Another major problem is the huge amount of garbage in the oceans. Debris from plastic in particular, such as from water bottles, straws, yogurt containers, and grocery bags, is found everywhere, but has accumulated especially in five "garbage patches," the largest of which is estimated to be twice the size of Texas. Often marine animals become entangled in plastic or mistake it for food and ingest it.



What can we do? Let's continue our efforts to reduce the use of fossil fuels and plastics, and support government policies that have the same effect on a larger scale. If you want to support a company that cleans up ocean debris while helping local economies, you can buy a bracelet made from recycled glass and plastic at 4ocean.com.

We can make a difference! by Ann Lusch, Education Commission

Michigan Science Center

5020 John R St. Detroit, MI 48202 313.577.8400
Free Exhibit exploring our connection with water!

About DEPTH

Our futures are directly linked to the future of water. What will that future be?

Water is life. Its presence affects all living things. From creation stories about life on Earth, to the looming devastating effects of pollution and climate change, water has the power to spread life and rejuvenation as well as death and destruction. Who has access to water? Who decides? These issues raise questions about water as a human right. About our responsibilities to water as a resource and our responsibilities to each other.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Alan Baumgardner, Coby Carpentier, Cole Frederick, David Fry, Christopher Gazley, Jordan Hebner, Heather Ingalls, Christopher Larry, Christopher Laveirge, Eric Polson, Robert Previch & Michael Genga.