

## Revitalization: Collective Action for the Ocean

### World Ocean Day 2022



“This year’s United Nations World Ocean Day, on June 8, will highlight the theme ***Revitalization: Collective Action for the Ocean***. This is the first hybrid celebration of the annual event, hosted in-person at the UN Headquarters in New York and broadcast live.

The ocean connects, sustains and supports us all. Yet its health is at a tipping point and so is the well-being of all that depends on it. As the past years have shown us, we need to work together to create a new balance with the ocean that no longer depletes its bounty but instead restores its vibrancy and brings it new life.”<sup>1</sup>

### Opening Prayer: (All together)

Creating and life-giving God, today we take time to reflect on your gift to us of ocean and oceanic life. For millennia, people have compared your love to the beauty, the richness and the power of the ocean. Sadly, we humans have depleted or damaged so much of ocean life by our actions. We are now - at the tipping point of total destruction- becoming aware of how we need to change our behaviour. We ask for your guidance, your strength and your wisdom to do all that is in our power to save the ocean and all life that depends on it. Amen

### Reader 1: A reading from Laudato Si’

“Oceans not only contain the bulk of our planet’s water supply, but also most of the immense variety of living creatures, many of them still unknown to us and threatened for various reasons. What is more, marine life in rivers, lakes, seas and oceans, which feed a great part of the world’s population, is affected by uncontrolled fishing, leading to drastic depletion of certain species. Selective forms of fishing which discard much of



<sup>1</sup> <https://unworldoceansday.org/un-world-oceans-day-2022/>

what they collect continue unabated. Particularly threatened are marine organisms which we tend to overlook, like some forms of plankton: they represent a significant element in the food chain, and species used for our food ultimately depend on them.”<sup>2</sup>

### **Reflection:**

Many of us may wonder what we can do to care for the ocean when we live so far away from it. The organizers of WOD 2022 are organizing a number of speakers and presenters who will reflect on this year’s theme and no doubt have many suggestions for what we can do to restore the balance for oceanic life. Everything is connected in the planet, including plastic waste and death of the fish and other creatures of the global ocean. How do you reduce your use of plastics to protect the ocean and life in it?



### **For Optional viewing:**

Watch this short video on the story of plastics:

<https://www.facebook.com/storyofstuff/videos/2866356077024668/>

### **Reader 2: A Reading from the Gospel of Luke**

“Life is more important than food and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they do not sow, they do not reap, they have neither cellar nor barn – yet God feeds them.”<sup>3</sup>

### **Reflection:**

Jesus’ acknowledgement that life is more important than food brings to mind the imbalance in our society where we devalue natural life, including oceanic life and we overvalue our personal taste and choices of foods and clothing, thereby wasting so much life.

How have I expressed my concern for the destruction of fish and other sea creatures?

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<sup>2</sup> Pope Francis: Laudato Si’ # 40

<sup>3</sup> Luke 12: 3&4. The New American Bible ©1970 Collier Macmillan Canada, Ltd.

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School of fish in coral reef:

[https://unsplash.com/@sgr?utm\\_source=unsplash&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_content=creditCopyText](https://unsplash.com/@sgr?utm_source=unsplash&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=creditCopyText)

Trash in Ocean: Photo by Naja Bertolt-Jensen <https://unsplash.com/photos/BJUoZu0mpt0>

What efforts have I made to live from a theology and practice of “enough-ness” rather than “excessiveness”?

**Litany of Lamentation:**

**Leader:** For any lack of concern we may have for oceanic life and the vitality of the ocean, we ask your mercy O Lord. **All:** Lord, have mercy.

**L:** For the destructiveness of our society in its abuse of life in the ocean, we ask your mercy, O Lord. **All:** Lord, have mercy.

**L:** For the failure of humans, including us, to limit and eliminate our use of plastics in order to protect our common home and its life-giving waters, we ask your mercy, O Lord.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Psalm of Gratitude:**

**Leader:** We give thanks for God’s gift of water seen in the beauty, power and integrity of our ocean world. **R –All: With grateful hearts we pray.**

**L:** We thank you that the ocean teaches humanity humility and awareness of the fact that we share this world with millions of other living creatures. **R.**

**L:** We give thanks for the peacefulness we feel as we watch the sun rise or set over the vast expanse of ocean. **R.**

We thank you for the beautiful habitats, fascinating creatures and natural resources that the ocean provides. **R.**

**L:** We give thanks that the ocean provides more than half of the oxygen we need for life. **R.**

**Closing Prayer: (All together)**

We give thanks Creator God for the gift of the ocean and seas – their beauty, wonder, strength and nourishment. As we commit on this World Ocean Day to protect your gift of water to us, may we always remember that each part of creation and its fullness reflects You. Amen.