

## Care of the Oceans – CLC Plastics Project

### #OceanAction21726

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #14:

*“Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.”*

CLC joins the UN Ocean Conference “Call for Action” to support SDG 14! Having attended this Ocean Conference in June 2017, our CLC Representatives Joan Woods and Nicholas Kim shared their concerns about the dire problems facing the ocean. They felt it was significant for us to join with others at the conference in taking action, so together with the UN working group, we proposed a project for reducing our use of plastic and this has been supported by the World ExCo. We have registered our project as a “voluntary commitment” on the UN Oceans Conference website. As of this writing, there are over 1,400 “voluntary commitments” by organizations, businesses, and governments around the world.

We felt affirmed in this decision by Pope Francis’ words in a letter to the Ocean Conference held in Malta in September 2017: *“The oceans are the common heritage of the human family. Only with a deep sense of humility, wonder and gratitude can we rightly speak of the ocean as “ours”. To care for this common inheritance necessarily involves rejecting cynical or indifferent ways of acting. We cannot pretend to ignore the problems of ocean pollution resulting, for example, from plastic and micro-plastics that enter the food chain and cause grave consequences for the health of marine and human life.”* (cf. Laudato Si’, 41).

**Our CLC project is listed as #OceanAction21726.**

#### **The Objectives of the Project:**

1. Make the connection about how our faith calls us to care for our common home, as described in Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si’*.
2. Raise awareness about the pollution of the ocean and detrimental impacts to health.
3. Encourage lifestyle changes in minimizing use of plastics and other products that pollute the ocean.

We plan to reach out to CLC members worldwide to both share information about best practices re packaging and minimizing plastics as well as collect the stories from those at the local level. We hope to do this through our magazine *Progressio*, on our website, on a Facebook Group and at our World Assembly.

We are fortunate to have CLC representatives at the UN who can help inform us about pertinent events at the UN as well as information about the oceans. Our main representative Joan Woods regularly attends conferences and committee meetings such as Climate Induced Migration, and our other representative, Nicholas Kim is an Ocean Scientist. The UN working group works closely with our World Executive Council and will coordinate the communication flow between our national communities.

There are many sub-categories and targets within SDG 14. We decided to focus on target 14.1 which states “By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.”

**CLC Action will involve:**

- Reducing our use of plastics through lifestyle changes as well as advocating for bans and restrictions on plastics in local areas.
- Educating our members about caring for our common home, protecting our oceans, and reducing plastic usage. We will be promoting our CLC ecology materials, the Pope’s Encyclical Laudato Si, and other relevant documents.
- Helping to implement action through networking and communications using Progressio Magazine, CVX-CLC website, Facebook group, Twitter, etc. We want to encourage the sharing of stories from local communities, best practices in reducing plastics, and other relevant information that inspires us to act on behalf of our oceans.

This project concludes in June 2019 when our CLC UN Working Group will produce a document of stories, best practices, analyses, recommendations for next steps, etc.

In the meantime, we encourage all to get involved in reducing your use of plastics. Many of you are already doing this. So, we invite you to share your photos, stories, information. Join our new Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cvxclcecology/>. And Tweet **#OceanAction21726**

**OTHER SDGS**



<https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21726>

September 2017 at Ocean Conference in Malta Vatican statement:

***LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS,  
SIGNED BY THE CARDINAL SECRETARY OF STATE,  
TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE  
FOURTH HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE ON  
"OUR OCEAN, AN OCEAN FOR LIFE"***

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2017/documents/papa-francesco\\_20170927\\_lettera-conferenza-ourocean.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2017/documents/papa-francesco_20170927_lettera-conferenza-ourocean.html)