



SPARK NOTES

JOIN MILLIONS OF PEOPLE REDUCING THEIR PLASTIC WASTE



We are honoring our commitment to Laudato Si ' through prayer, learning, and action. We have been trying to reduce our use of plastic.

We join a global movement. Check out some of the Plastic Free July Videos here.

<https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/resources/videos/>

Plastic pollution is a global problem. Approximately 7 billion of the 9.2 billion tons of plastic produced from 1950-2017 became plastic waste, ending up in landfills or dumped.

Watch “The Story of Plastic” animated short at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iO3SA4YyEYU>. This link also offers information on how to watch the full-length feature documentary. “The Story of Plastic” pulls back the curtain on the plastic pollution headlines, revealing the true causes and consequences of the global plastics crisis.

Plastic is both useful and harmful. It is cheap, strong, and light, but it pollutes the earth and can harm health

The Good

- Strong and Lasting: Plastic does not break easily and lasts a long time.
- Lightweight: It weighs very little, which saves fuel when shipping goods.
- Low Cost: It is cheap to make, so food and medical tools are affordable.
- Safe and Clean: It keeps medical tools and food free from germs.

The Bad

- Does Not Go Away: Plastic stays in the environment for hundreds of years.
- Hurts Animals: Sea animals and birds eat plastic or get stuck in it.
- Health Risks: Chemicals in some plastics can leak into food and water.
- Pollution: Tiny bits of plastic, called microplastics, are now in the air, water, and human bodies.





SPARK NOTES

5 Ways Plastic Harms the Environment

1. Kills Ocean Life. By now you've probably heard about the massive amounts of plastic polluting oceans and other waterways. ...
2. Kills Terrestrial Wildlife. Plastic also harms the environment by killing land animals. ...
3. Takes Up Space. ...
4. Produces Chemical Pollution. ...
5. Creates microplastics, which present health risks.



A Prayer for our Earth

*All-powerful God,
You are present in the universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.*

*You embrace with your tenderness all that
exists.*

*Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
so precious in your eyes.*

*Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on
it, that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.*

*Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle,
for justice, love and peace.*

Amen

Pope Francis

ACTION

WE ARE INVITED – CHALLENGED – TO REFUSE TO USE ANY: SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BEVERAGE BOTTLES (WATER, SODA, JUICE, TEA, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, ETC.), SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS, PLASTIC CUTLERY