



OFS Canada JPIC Communiqué JPIC July 2020

Keeping our Streams, Rivers Lakes and Oceans Clean

Rule 18: “Moreover they should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which “bear the imprint of the Most High,” and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship.”

[The Government of Canada is doing its part...](#) are we? Despite managing resources, reducing pollution, taking action on toxic substances, monitoring, investing in infrastructure and developing regulations. What can we do as Secular Franciscans, tasked with the reduction of exploitation of Creation?

Six Ways to Keep Our Water Clean

1) Recycle Used Items



Most of us recycle but do we properly dispose of items that cannot be recycled? For ex. Do we wash/rinse recyclable containers? If we don't, the dirty ones will be disposed in garbage by the Recycler. Too many items end up in the regular garbage or on the ground. Imagine cigarette butts, bottle tops, plastic tops from takeout coffee shops etc. You get the idea. This has an awful effect on the environmental and on people when they are dropped on the ground at a beach or riverside area. There are ways to prevent such pollution. [Here is what they do in Vancouver.](#) It's time for us to consider a [Zero Waste Lifestyle.](#)

2) Minimize Chemical Use

Eliminating or minimizing our use of harsh chemicals and especially pesticides is the best way to protect waters. [The David Suzuki Foundation states](#) : “Neonicotinoid (neonics) pesticides are the most widely used insecticides in the world used to control pests on agricultural crops, but they are also found on Christmas trees, houseplants etc. A growing body of international scientific evidence has shown neonics are dangerous and contribute to a decline in bee and monarch butterfly populations. One-third of our food supply relies on pollinators like bees. [Sign their petition here.](#)



3) Dispose of Hazardous Materials Correctly



Proper disposal of hazardous materials such as paints, motor oil and pharmaceuticals keep them out of the water supply. Inquire with your municipal center about chemical pickup or drop-off locations in your area. [Here is one example of what is done in Guelph, Ontario.](#) What is your municipality doing? If they don't have a special program to handle hazardous waste, maybe it's time your local JPIC advocated for it.



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4) Participate in Clean-up Efforts

Take part in local clean-up days to help keep trash out of the water. Clean up litter along a river, stream or beach, or along city streets or highways. If you have children, use this opportunity to teach them how litter thrown into the street can eventually reach the ocean. Better yet, organize a clean-up day for a school or church group so everyone can work and learn together. [The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup](#) is a



national conservation program that provides Canadians the opportunity to take action in their communities wherever water meets land, one bit of trash at a time.

5) Advocate for Clean Water

Once you've taken individual responsibility for cleaning the water supply, [advocate for clean water](#)



policy or participate in a clean water outreach program. If a high school student can do it, so can we! Use your knowledge to teach others how to keep the water clean through a community education program, for instance. Speak at Parent Councils, chamber of commerce or city hall meetings about taking responsibility for keeping waters clean. Write to your representatives to urge them to take action for clean water as well. What are your plans for [World Water Day](#)? Get your facts straight.

6) Participate in Community cleanups such as the annual [Glad Clean up the Capital](#) event in Ottawa.



Get involved with local initiatives to clean up parks, ravines, shorelines. These projects are an ideal way for Youth Groups, neighbours, family and friends to work together.

Member Sharings: Tell us what you or your fraternity is doing to safeguard Sister Water. Send your stories to micheldavid.ofs@gmail.com

Stay up to date on JPIC Issues and Actions and bookmark **Franciscan Voice Canada** at <https://www.franciscanvoicecanada.com/>

Restez au courant des actions et des problèmes liés à JPIC et afficher en favori **Chemins Franciscains** à l'adresse <https://www.cheminsfranciscains.ca/le-siaf>