

Integral Faith

"Homily helps and liturgy resources highlighting care for our common home."



Catholic Climate Covenant™
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Homily Helps and Petitions for the 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (June 25, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Jeremiah 20: "[T]o you I have entrusted my cause. Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked!"

Psalms 69: "Let the heavens and the earth praise him, the seas and whatever moves in them!"

Romans 5: The gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many.

Matthew 10: "Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

† Comments for the Day:

God's saving mercy is unending and boundless. Today's readings invite us to reflect on God's infinite love and to trust in it. Jeremiah recounts how God rescued him from his enemies and witnesses to us the necessity of entrusting ourselves to God. The psalmist reminds us to join with creation in hymns of gratitude and praise.

St. Paul teaches that God's mercy is so much greater than our offenses. Thus, by entrusting ourselves to Christ, there is hope for reconciliation and healing in our broken world. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus reminds us of how the Father cares for even the smallest detail of our lives, and for the life of all of His creation.

In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis highlights many challenges that confront our world today. In the face of these challenges, it is helpful to remember that God is in charge and will help us if we entrust our cause to him. As humans, we are worth more than many sparrows, which is saying a lot since God has pledged his love for all creation.

As God's own sons and daughters, we have a particular responsibility for both body and soul, for the material and spiritual dimensions of this earthly life. We should not shirk this responsibility, though we could be tempted to do so in the face of the magnitude of the ecological and social crises confronting us today. If we walk in faith, confident of God's mercy and acknowledging before others His presence in our lives, He will intercede for us and sanctify our efforts on behalf of the environment and the poor whose lives depend on it.

This resource is provided by Catholic Climate Covenant in collaboration with the Integral Faith Team, a group of male and female religious, priests, and lay people dedicated to serving the Church.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

Human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbor and with the earth itself... The harmony between the Creator, humanity and creation as a whole was disrupted by our presuming to take the place of God and refusing to acknowledge our creaturely limitations. (65)

We must forcefully reject the notion that our being created in God's image and given dominion over the earth justifies absolute domination over other creatures. The biblical texts are to be read in their context [and imply] a relationship of mutual responsibility between human beings and nature. Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations. (67)

There can be no renewal of our relationship with nature without a renewal of humanity itself. There can be no ecology without an adequate anthropology.... Human beings cannot be expected to feel responsibility for the world unless, at the same time, their unique capacities of knowledge, will, freedom and responsibility are recognized and valued. (118)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: May we grow in our relationships with God, with one another, and with all of God's creation, we pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That we may show our gratitude for God's saving mercy by how we show mercy to one another, and how we care for His creation, we pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

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Webpage: www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help

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