

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 14th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (July 9, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Zechariah 9: The warrior's bow shall be banished, and he shall proclaim peace to the nations.

Psalms 145: Let all your works give you thanks, O Lord, and let your faithful ones bless you.

Romans 8: You are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit.

Matthew 11: Although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones.

† Comments for the Day:

Cyrus king of the Persian Empire freed the Israelite captives in Babylon in 539 BCE. As the exiles come home, The prophet Zechariah envisions a just and humble savior who will do away with violence and warfare. Paul then writes about the struggle between flesh and spirit. This does not mean that he is against our bodies, which are a gift from God. Paul uses "flesh" to mean hate, violence, egotism, and envy; and "spirit" to mean following Jesus' teachings about peace and love of neighbor.

Our gospel reading today centers on the clash between Jesus and the Pharisees who laid down the burden of countless rules and regulations on people. They do not have the wisdom to see that the message of Jesus is about love for God and for all people. Part of this love for God and others is caring for creation. Not only is it a responsibility to care for what God has created, but in doing so we ensure a healthy environment for all. This is especially important for those poor and vulnerable who are most impacted by climate change.

As the Psalm says, "Let all your works give you thanks, O Lord, and let your faithful ones bless you." What better way to honor God's works and to bless Him than by sharing and protecting the natural resources that sustain the lives of all our brothers and sisters.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

It is foreseeable that, once certain resources have been depleted, the scene will be set for new wars, albeit under the guise of noble claims. War always does grave harm to the environment and to the cultural riches of peoples, risks which are magnified when one considers nuclear arms and biological weapons.... Politics must pay greater attention to foreseeing new conflicts and addressing the causes which lead to them. (57)

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.

The natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone.... That is why the New Zealand bishops asked what the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" means when 'twenty percent of the world's population consumes resources at a rate that robs the poor nations and future generations of what they need to survive.'" (95)

Disinterested concern for others, and the rejection of every form of self-centeredness and self-absorption, are essential if we truly wish to care for our brothers and sisters and for the natural environment. These attitudes also attune us to the moral imperative of assessing the impact of our every action and personal decision on the world around us. (208)

Social love is the key to authentic development: "In order to make society more human, more worthy of the human person, love in social life – political, economic and cultural – must be given renewed value, becoming the constant and highest norm for all activity."... social love moves us to devise larger strategies to halt environmental degradation and to encourage a "culture of care" which permeates all of society. (231)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That the nations of the world learn to live in peace, for the sake of life and all creation, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That current and future generations learn to live more sustainably, especially for the poor and vulnerable most impacted by environmental degradation, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

Visit our webpage and sign up to receive these resources delivered to your email inbox each month.