

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (July 23, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Wisdom 12: But though you are master of might, you judge with clemency.

Romans 8: The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness.

Matthew 13: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants.... Just as weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age."

† Comments for the Day:

The readings for today emphasize both the mercy of God, and the opposition between good and evil. The book of Wisdom tells us of the mercy of God in judging our faults. Matthew, on the other hand, describes a God who ultimately calls us to account.

Our experience of ourselves and of others shows that we are capable of doing both good and evil. Paul assures us that the Holy Spirit comes to our aid so that we may live in a way that is loving, generous, and helpful to those in need.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus speaks to the crowds in a series of parables about the kingdom of heaven. Jesus invites us to be the mustard seed and the yeast that is sorely needed in this world. We can do that by heeding Pope Francis' call to answer the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

We have to realize that a true ecological approach *always* becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear *both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor*. (49)

The bishops of Brazil have pointed out that nature as a whole not only manifests God but is also a locus of his presence. The Spirit of life dwells in every living creature and calls us to enter into relationship with him. Discovering this presence leads us to cultivate the "ecological virtues". (88)

Yet all is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start ... No system can completely

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suppress our openness to what is good, true and beautiful, or our God-given ability to respond to his grace at work deep in our hearts. (205)

The Father is the ultimate source of everything, the loving and self-communicating foundation of all that exists. The Son, his reflection, through whom all things were created, unites himself to this earth when he was formed in the womb of Mary. The Spirit, infinite bond of love, is intimately present at the very heart of the universe, inspiring and bringing new pathways. (238)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we have the courage to stand up on behalf of God's creation by asking lawmakers to support action to address climate change, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That governments prioritize a healthy environment over economic policies that favor corporate interests, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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