

# Integral Faith

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



Catholic Climate Covenant<sup>sm</sup>  
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

## Homily Resources and Petitions for the 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time Cycle C (July 21 2019)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture passages to note:

**Genesis 18:** Then Abraham got some curds and milk, as well as the steer that had been prepared, and set these before the three men; and he waited on them under the tree while they ate. They asked Abraham, "Where is your wife Sarah?" He replied, "There in the tent." One of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah will then have a son."

**Psalms 15:** He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

**Luke 10:** Jesus entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary who sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak.

#### † Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

Various convictions of our faith, developed at the beginning of this Encyclical can help us to enrich the meaning of this conversion. These include the awareness that each creature reflects something of God and has a message to convey to us, and the security that Christ has taken unto himself this material world and now, risen, is intimately present to each being, surrounding it with his affection and penetrating it with his light. Then too, there is the recognition that God created the world, writing into it an order and a dynamism that human beings have no right to ignore. We read in the Gospel that Jesus says of the birds of the air that "not one of them is forgotten before God" (Lk 12:6). How then can we possibly mistreat them or cause them harm? (#221)

Care for nature is part of a lifestyle which includes the capacity for living together and communion. Jesus reminded us that we have God as our common Father and that this makes us brothers and sisters. Fraternal love can only be gratuitous; it can never be a means of repaying others for what they have done or will do for us. That is why it is possible to love our enemies. This same gratuitousness inspires us to love and accept the wind, the sun and the clouds, even though we cannot control them. In this sense, we can speak of a "universal fraternity". (#228)

#### † Comment for the day:

There is reciprocal hospitality in today's Scriptures, that of God for human beings and that of humans for God.

It begins with the hospitality of God. Indeed, all creation lies within the abundant mystery of God's hospitality. Creation itself is an act of God's love. All that exists, material and spiritual, is imbedded in and sustained by God's love. In this Sunday's reading from Genesis, Abraham is eager to provide hospitality for the LORD. He brings out the best he has. In doing so, he acknowledges that in the first

instance, all that he has come from God. And God continues to be generous, ultimately blessing Abraham and Sarah with a son. When we look at the example of Abraham and Sarah, how do we ourselves compare? Do we see all the gifts of creation as coming from the hand of God? And are we willing to share what we have received with our neighbor, or to recognize God in the stranger?

In the Gospel for this Sunday, by listening to the Lord, Mary in a sense resides in his hospitality. The Martha-Mary story may be a verbatim report, but it reads more like a parable. What is the "one thing" that Jesus tells Martha is necessary? Listening to the Lord takes priority even over service.

In our own day, persistent drought in northern African has heightened local conflicts and driven people from their lands. Many flee to Europe as refugees, while others remain behind and struggle to survive. If we Christians are to live within the dynamic of God's hospitality, our care should extend to others. We should strive to protect creation and assure that all people have a secure place in it.

### † **Related Prayers of the Faithful:**

**Option 1:** May all of us, who have received so much from God, grow in the grace of thankfulness and generosity, let us pray to the Lord....

**Option 2:** May those who seek refuge because their lands suffer drought or flooding or other catastrophes find in Christians a willingness to share the blessings of God's creation, let us pray to the Lord....

Feedback: [Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org](mailto:Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org)

Webpage: [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help)

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