

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (July 30, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

1 Kings 3: Give your servant, therefore, and understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong.

Romans 8: We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Matthew 13: "Do you understand all these things?" They answered, "Yes."

† Comments for the Day:

The readings for today emphasize the necessity of living a life guided by our deepest values.

Solomon chooses a wise and understanding heart as his deepest desire. Paul urges the Roman Christians to be recreated by God into the new life made possible by Christ, and to conform their lives to his. Jesus' parables of the kingdom teach us that the reign of God is so precious that we should be willing to transform our priorities and answer "yes" to the risk of changing our lifestyles.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis also urges us to undergo a conversion – and ecological one – and offers the wisdom and moral leadership to do it. Addressing the devastation of the earth brought about by the climate crisis, for example, does indeed call us to transform our priorities for the sake of the earth, its peoples, and all of creation.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

A change in lifestyle could bring healthy pressure to bear on those who wield political, economic and social power. This is what consumer movements accomplish by boycotting certain products. They prove successful in changing the way businesses operate, forcing them to consider their environmental footprint and their patterns of production. When social pressure affects their earnings, businesses clearly have to find ways to produce differently. This shows us the great need for a sense of social responsibility on the part of consumers. (206)

The ecological crisis is a summons to profound interior conversion. It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an "ecological conversion",

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whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience. (217)

[Ecological conversion] entails gratitude and gratuitousness, a recognition that the world is God's loving gift, and that we are called quietly to imitate his generosity in self-sacrifice and good works.... It also entails a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures, but joined in a splendid universal communion. (220)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we may devote ourselves to protecting earth, our common home, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That we might have the courage to change aspects of our lifestyles that do not promote sustainability or care for creations, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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