

Integral Faith

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



Catholic Climate Covenantsm
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Homily Resources and Petitions for the 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time Cycle C (July 28 2019)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Genesis 18: While Abraham's visitors walked on farther toward Sodom, the LORD remained standing before Abraham. Then Abraham drew nearer and said: "Will you sweep away the innocent with the guilty? Suppose there were fifty innocent people in the city; would you wipe out the place, rather than spare it for the sake of the fifty innocent people within it?"

Psalms 138: When I called you answered me; you built up strength within me.

Colossians 2: Brothers and sisters: You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

Gospel of Luke 11: "Give us each day our daily bread..."

"Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey and I have nothing to offer him..."

"And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

Here, continuity is essential, because policies related to climate change and environmental protection cannot be altered with every change of government. Results take time and demand immediate outlays which may not produce tangible effects within any one government's term. That is why, in the absence of pressure from the public and from civic institutions, political authorities will always be reluctant to intervene, all the more when urgent needs must be met. To take up these responsibilities and the costs they entail, politicians will inevitably clash with the mindset of short-term gain and results which dominates present-day economics and politics. But if they are courageous, they will attest to their God-given dignity and leave behind a testimony of selfless responsibility. (#181)

† Comment for the day:

Our readings lead us to reflect on prayer, which lies at the heart of a living relationship with God. In our first reading, Abraham appeals to God, asking that he not destroy the innocent along with the wicked. His haggling and the parable of Jesus in the Gospel also highlight the importance of persistence in prayer.

In our world today, who speaks up for the innocent? Are we willing to pray for those who suffer through no fault of their own, but rather because of the actions of others? Pollution, deforestation, the depletion of fisheries, climate change, and many other environmental ills often result from the actions of the wealthy and powerful. If we are willing to pray for the innocent, are we also willing to speak out to authorities here on this Earth? And if we are willing to be persistent in prayer, should we not also be persistent in working for justice and standing up for the vulnerable? What do words of prayer mean if the prayers we utter are not really reflected in the lives we lead?

At the same time, naked activism is not the way of a follower of Jesus. Nonetheless, sometimes for those committed to a cause, including the cause of caring for our common home, activism sometimes puts prayer on the back burner. Then we run the risk of perhaps doing the right thing, but for our own reasons. Instead, we must do the right thing for God's reasons. This is a duty we owe not only to God but also to ourselves and to our non-religious colleagues.

A final thought: Jesus teaches his disciples to pray, enjoining them to pray for their daily bread. Thus Jesus reminds us, too, of our need for God to sustain us each day of our lives. When we reflect on how God sustains us, we see that it is through the love of others and the gifts of creation. Bread is the fruit of the earth, as the Liturgy of the Eucharist reminds us. An awareness of that reality should imbue in us a deep reverence for this world that God has created.

† **Related Prayers of the Faithful:**

Option 1: That God may bless all those who till the soil and tend the farm animals that sustain us, so that we may indeed enjoy our daily bread, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That God may sustain all those who pray for justice and manifest those prayers in the lives they lead, let us pray to the Lord....

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