

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Helps and Petitions for the 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B (August 8, 2021)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**1 Kings 19:** Elijah went a day's journey into the desert, until he came to a broom tree and sat beneath it. He prayed for death saying: "This is enough, O Lord."

**Ephesians 4:** So be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love.

**John 6:** I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die."

#### † Comments for the Day:

Hearing Elijah murmuring his sad lament is reminiscent of Moses' reluctance to go before Pharaoh to demand that God's people be set free from slavery. In Elijah's case, it was the food provided by the angel that gave him the strength to finally continue on the forty-day and forty-night journey to the mountain of God and to experience the presence of the Holy One.

Likewise, hearing the Jews murmuring that they cannot understand why Jesus identifies himself as the bread come down from heaven is reminiscent of the complaints the Israelites pressed against Moses in the desert during their forty year journey to the Promised Land. Manna in the desert is what saved the Israelites from devastating hunger, while the "bread come down from heaven" is that which will save those who believe and act on the gospel of Jesus, the word of God.

Mother Earth cries out with complaints that the abuse placed against her is too much for her to bear. Like Elijah, she says, "This is enough!" She has given so lavishly to her children that now, without the cooperation of the human family, she is unable to continue to provide. The human family must now come to the aid of our common mother and care for her as delicately and generously as she has for us. Pope Francis suggests that this calls us all to an "ecological conversion." He invites us to consider a spirituality that has always been at the core of the Christian faith.

Participation at the eucharistic table requires much more than simply eating and drinking. As St. Paul tells the Ephesians in today's second reading, a follower of Christ is required to imitate God and to live in love. It is then, says St. Augustine, that the Christian becomes what he/she eats at the table of the Lord. Eucharistic nourishment feeds us through the process of conversion and brings us in union with Christ who is the living center of the universe. If, by faithful participation

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.

in the eucharistic meal, we acknowledge our union with Christ and His body here on earth, then it is imperative that we also acknowledge the cry for help that comes from creation itself.

† **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)

These situations have caused sister earth, along with all the abandoned of our world, to cry out, pleading that we take another course. Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years. (53)

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,” whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. (217)

In the Eucharist, fullness is already achieved; it is the living centre of the universe, the overflowing core of love and of inexhaustible life. ... Thus, the Eucharist is also a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation. (236)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That Christians may see in the Eucharist the transforming power to heal what is broken and to renew what is dying, let us pray to the Lord...

**Option 2:** That we might be open to a spirit of conversion in order to live in such a way that is life-giving for the whole of Gods' creation, let us pray to the Lord...

### Further Resources

**Feedback:** [info@catholicclimatecovenant.org](mailto:info@catholicclimatecovenant.org)

**Webpage:** <http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help>

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