

# Integral Faith

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



Catholic Climate Covenant™  
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

## Homily Helps and Bulletin Notices for the First Sunday of Lent, Cycle C (March 6, 2022)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**[Deuteronomy 26]:** “The priest shall receive the basket from you and shall set it in front of the altar of the LORD . . . Therefore, I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O LORD, have given me.”

**[Romans 10: 8-13]:** If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

**[Luke 4:1-13]** Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days.

#### † Comments for the Day:

Today’s first reading looks back to Moses’ final speech to the Israelites before they cross the Jordan into the Promised Land. Moses recalls the saving acts of God throughout their history, notably to their refugee ancestor Jacob. In a ritual of thanksgiving the Israelites offer baskets of the produce of the new land to God.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul urges the church at Rome to believe in Jesus’ resurrection and saving grace with their whole hearts. This faith will allow them to move beyond prejudice and feelings of superiority among themselves, so that they may be a true community. And in today’s Gospel, Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit, goes out to the desert to wrestle with Satan who tempts him to betray his calling by using his spiritual power for egotistical gains.

Lent calls us to move beyond focusing on our own comfort, convenience, and the search for admiration. Rather, we are called to care for earth, or “common home,” which is suffering from drought, fires, floods, and storms, the root cause of which is our own carbon-producing activities. The resultant change in climate is creating more and more refugees who can no longer produce food for their communities and who are being shut out of wealthier countries.

The Lenten fast is about more than giving up candy, alcohol, or TV. For us it could be gratitude for the abundance of food we enjoy, advocating for policies to restore the natural environment that sustain us all, welcoming refugees into our communities, or buying only things that we need rather than simply whatever we want. In short, a Lenten fast can be any practice that allows us to walk lightly on our earth. Prayers of gratitude and prayers of petition for a more believing, hopeful heart will lead to the God whose love has no bounds.

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.

### **Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:**

Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principle challenges facing humanity in our day. Its worst impact will probably be felt by developing countries in coming decades. Many of the poor live in areas particularly affected by phenomena related to warming ... There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation. (25)

We are always capable of going out of ourselves towards the other...we fail to set limits on ourselves in order to avoid the suffering of others or the deterioration of our surroundings. Disinterested concern for others, and the rejection of every form of self-centeredness and self absorption, are essential if we truly wish to care for our brothers and sisters and for the natural environment. These attitudes also attune us to the moral imperatives of assessing the impact of every action and personal decision on the world around us. (208)

A person who could afford to spend and consume more but regularly uses less heating and wears warmer clothes, shows the kind of convictions and attitudes which help to protect the environment. There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions [that] reflect a generous and worthy creativity which brings out the best in human beings. (211)

### **Related Prayers of the Faithful**

**Option 1:** That we learn to see and act with compassion for the migrants of this world, particularly those fleeing the effects of climate change, let us pray to the Lord...

**Option 2:** That we work to become conscious of the impacts that our lifestyles have on earth, our common home, 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>

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