

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 First Sunday of Lent Cycle C (March 10, 2019)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Deuteronomy 26: "[The Lord] gave us this land flowing with milk and honey. Therefore, I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O Lord, have given me."

Psalms 91: Upon their hands [His angels] shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. You shall tread upon the asp and the viper; you shall trample down the lion and the dragon.

Romans 10: There is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, enriching all who call upon him.

Luke 4: Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry. ... Then [the devil] took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world.... "I shall give to you all this power and glory.... All this will be yours if you worship me."

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

There is a tendency to believe that every increase in power means 'an increase of 'progress' itself, an advance in "security, usefulness, welfare and vigor; ... an assimilation of new values into the stream of culture" as if reality, goodness and truth automatically flow from technological and economic power as such. The fact is that "contemporary man has not been trained to use power well".... Human beings are not completely autonomous. Our freedom fades when it is handed over to the blind forces of the unconscious, of immediate needs, of self-interest, and of violence. In this sense we stand naked and exposed in the face of our ever-increasing power, lacking the wherewithal to control it. (#105)

† Comment for the day:

In the Book of Deuteronomy, Moses reminds the people that the land upon which they lived was a gift from the Lord. He then commands the people to bring the first fruits of this land to the altar of the Lord as a sign of their gratitude for all they had received. Indeed, we should regard all creation with this gratitude. Creation is our home, our 'land', given to nourish us and our descendants. As we begin the sacred season of Lent, let us focus on the fact that Creation is a gift from God; we are called to cherish and protect it, and to be sure its fruits are shared with all God's people.

When tempted in the desert, Jesus did not regard any of the things the devil put before him for their own sake. Rather, God came first, and Jesus placed all else in its proper context, the context of his

relationship with the Father. Let us, too, resist the temptation to use God's gifts for their own sake. Instead, let us care for Creation as God's common legacy to all, and use this great gift to foster our relationships with God and with one another.

† **Related Prayers of the Faithful**

Option 1: That as we begin our Lenten journey we might renew our commitment to love God above all, and to love our neighbor as ourselves, let us pray to the Lord, ...

Option 2: That during this time of Lent we may all have the grace to respond to Pope Francis' call to ecological conversion and so be able to do our part and live more gently upon the earth, let us pray to the Lord...

† **Sample Bulletin Notice**

Today's Gospel tells us that Jesus ate nothing for forty days in the desert. The situation of Jesus reminds us of so many throughout the world who suffer hunger, or who are not compensated for the hard work they perform in providing our daily food. In keeping with Pope Francis' call to care for our common home, let us find ways to help feed the hungry of our own community, and consider the possibility of using fair trade products, which provide farmers with safe conditions and just wages. Lent is a good time to learn more about the importance of buying fair trade products. (Google fair trade chocolate; fair trade coffee; and so on.)

Feedback: Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org

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

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