

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 Petitions for the 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (August 27, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Isaiah 22: "He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah.... I will fix him like a peg in a sure spot, to be a place of honor for his family."

Romans 11: *Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid? For from him and through him and for him are all things.*

Matthew 16: Simon Peter said...., "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church."

† Comments for the Day:

Consider for a moment the concept of "partnership." In that relationship, we discover the notion that we are in this together, we each have something to offer, and we need one another. The readings today remind us of our genuine partnership with God in His divine plan for restoring all things in Christ.

The very concept of victory, as understood and modeled by Christ, is hard to grasp in a world obsessed with conquering rather than comprehending. The Son of the living God won his victory over death and selfishness by emptying himself and willingly assuming our weakened condition. He entered into solidarity with us, respecting the dignity of all people. Rather than imposing the reign of God, he invites us to become partners in building it up – here and now, not in some dreamy, far-off promised land. Jesus offers life in abundance, for all.

Our task, as true disciples of Christ and members of God's family, is to exercise "authority" as Jesus did, in both word and deed: not by *imposing* but by *proposing* an alternate path. He calls us to conversion, to change our lifestyle, and to live now as we hope to love forever: sharing in solidarity God's good gifts generously, caring for one another, and caring for our common home.

We can take great comfort from the behavior of Simon Peter! Jesus saw the colossal potential in this unpredictable, emotional, and generally flawed human person. Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter, meaning "Rock," giving him a new assignment: holding the keys of God's household, with the authority and responsibility of building up God's reign.

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.

Like Peter, we are all being called to conversion, to change our lifestyle and assume genuine partnership in caring for our common home. We have been given a generous gift and are being invited to care for what God has given for the benefit of all.

Each of us is called to rely on our personal relationship with Christ to build up the reign of God for and with those around us. We are not called to live this alone, but with others, in the community of disciples that is called to be an instrument of communion with and for all of creation.

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

I would like to offer Christians a few suggestions for an ecological spirituality grounded in the convictions of our faith, since the teachings of the Gospel have direct consequences for our way of thinking, feeling and living. More than in ideas or concepts as such, I am interested in how such a spirituality can motivate us to a more passionate concern for the protection of our world... the life of the spirit is not dissociated from the body or from nature or from worldly realities, but lived in and with them, in communion with all that surrounds us. (216).

The ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion. It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians... 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. 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)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That God might enlighten the leaders of nations to wisely evaluate economic development to make decisions that promote true *human* development for everyone, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That we might respond in gratitude to the precious gift of partnership to build up the reign of God, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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