

Integral Faith

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



Homily Resources and Petitions for the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B, 2 September, 2018)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Deuteronomy: Or what great nation has statutes and decrees that are as just as this whole law which I am setting before you today?

Psalms 15: Whoever walks blamelessly and does justice; who thinks the truth in his heart and slanders not with his tongue...shall never be disturbed.

James: Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls.

Mark: Nothing that enters one from the outside can defile that person; but the things that come are what defile out from within

† Comment for the day:

Today's scripture readings remind us that "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly. What is essential is invisible to the eye." (*The Little Prince*, Antoine St. Exupery). The psalmist sings of those who think the truth in their hearts. St. James urges his community to welcome the word that's been planted within them, the word that will save them. Jesus speaks of the vain worship of those whose hearts are far from God and Jesus proclaims that it is the destructive thoughts that we harbor in our hearts that defile. This is not to say that action, attention to external matters and justice are optional. St. James insists that we cannot separate our hearts and our actions. We must put flesh on our faith because having good, holy thoughts and beautiful words without acting on them renders them vain. Prayer, reflection, and self-knowledge are necessary so that we can keep our hearts attached to what is important in life.

Pope Francis reminds us that a consumerist culture seeks to distract us from what is essential in life and taint our values. The result is destruction of the environment and ultimately immense human suffering, especially for the poor. He stresses that we all share in the web of life and that care for the common good is essential for the health and survival of the web of life.

† Passages from Laudato Si' to note

...the violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth, burdened and laid waste is, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she “groans in travail” (Rom 8:22) We have forgotten that we ourselves are “the dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters. [2]

We need only recall how ecosystems interaction dispersing carbon dioxide, purifying water, controlling illnesses and epidemics, forming soil, breaking down waste, and in many other ways which we overlook or simply do not know about. Once they become conscious of this, many people realize that we live and act on the basis of a reality which has previously been given to us, which precedes our existence and our abilities. So, when we speak of “sustainable use,” consideration must always be given to each ecosystem’s regenerative ability in its different areas and aspects. [#140]

Human ecology also implies another profound reality: the relationship between human life and the moral law which is inscribed in our nature and is necessary for the creation of a more dignified environment. Pope Benedict XVI spoke of an “ecology of man” based on the fact that “man too has nature that he must respect and that he cannot manipulate at will.” [120] It is enough to recognize that our body itself establishes us in a direct relationship with the environment and with other living beings...[#155]

In the present condition of global society, where injustices abound and growing numbers of people are deprived of basic human rights and considered expendable, the principle of the common good immediately becomes, logically and inevitably, a summons to solidarity and a preferential option for the poorest of our brothers and sisters. [158]

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we may become both hearers and doers of the word of God, we pray...Lord hear our prayer

Option 2: That we might grow in respect for the limitations of our human nature and for all the living beings with whom we share the earth, we pray...Lord, hear our prayer

Further Resources

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