

# Integral Faith

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



Catholic Climate Covenant<sup>sm</sup>  
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

## Homily Resources and Petitions for the 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time Cycle C (September 1, 2019)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture passages to note:

**Sirach 3:** My child, conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts. Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find favor with God.

**Psalms 68:** God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor... The father of orphans and the defender of widows is God in his holy dwelling. God gives a home to the forsaken; he leads forth prisoners to prosperity... Bountiful rain you showered down, O God, upon your inheritance; you restored the land when it languished.

**Hebrews 12:** You have approached Mount Zion...and Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and the sprinkled blood that speaks more eloquently than that of Abel.

**Luke 14:** For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted...when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you.

#### † Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

A misguided anthropocentrism leads to a misguided lifestyle... When human beings place themselves at the center, they give absolute priority to immediate convenience and all else becomes relative. (#122)

The culture of relativism is the same disorder which drives one person to take advantage of another, to treat others as mere objects, imposing forced labor on them or enslaving them to pay their debts. (#123)

We are convinced that "man is the source, the focus and the aim of all economic and social life". (#127, with citation from John Paul II)

Work is a necessity, part of the meaning of life on this earth, a path to growth, human development and personal fulfillment. Helping the poor financially must always be a provisional solution in the face of pressing needs. The broader objective should always be to allow them a dignified life through work. (#128)

To claim economic freedom while real conditions bar many people from actual access to it, and while possibilities of employment continue to shrink, is to practice a doublespeak which brings politics into disrepute. (#129)

### † **Comment for the day:**

Today's readings help us to reflect on attitudes that we need to cultivate in order not only to hear God's word, but to put it into practice. Sirach calls us to be humble, ready to share our gifts with all. *Laudato Si'* speaks about a misguided understanding of who we are as human beings, an understanding that leads to a misguided lifestyle. It comes about when human beings place themselves at the center of everything, when they give absolute priority to their own needs and desires and make all else relative. That attitude is the opposite of the attitude that Sirach calls for.

In Psalm 68 we are reminded of the loving concern that God has for us, especially for those who are the most vulnerable: the poor, the orphans, the widows, the forsaken and prisoners. God makes a home for them, and provides rain to sustain their lives. How might we make a home for the poor today? Pope Francis does not call for handouts, but rather that we create a society with work for everyone. Dignified labor is a path to growth, human development and personal fulfillment. At times we may need to help the poor financially, but the broader objective is always to promote human dignity through work.

Hebrews calls to mind the willingness of Jesus to "sprinkle his blood" for the good of his sisters and brothers. We are all called to give of ourselves for others, to sacrifice ourselves for the sake of those who most need our compassion and care.

The Gospel underlines the same attitudes. It reminds us that it is those who humble themselves who will be exalted, and that those will be blessed who care for the ones not able to repay. Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si'* provides many examples throughout of how we might build more authentic relationships with one another and with God's creation, thereby growing in our relationship with God, as well.

### † **Related Prayers of the Faithful:**

**Option 1:** That in good economic times and difficult ones, our leaders in government and industry may work to provide dignified jobs for all members of society, let us pray to the Lord....

**Option 2:** That all who hold leadership positions in society may work for a world where all people, especially those who have been pushed to the margins, may enjoy the dignity of work, housing, and a healthy environment, let us pray to the Lord....

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Webpage: [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help)

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