

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Resources and Petitions for the 23d Sunday in Ordinary Time (9 September, 2018)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture passages to note:

**READING: Isaiah 35**-Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you.

**READING:** The God of Jacob keeps faith forever. Secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry.

**READING: James 2**-Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?

**READING:** "He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

† **Comment for the day:** Today's readings show us God offering the exiled Israelites the hope of homecoming and healing. Jesus is depicted as healer who opens an individual human being's ears and frees his tongue to speak. He does this by applying a remedy from his own earthly body. Jesus' enactment teaches us that we must open our ears to hear God's word and free our tongues to speak of God's justice. As we listen to God's voice in contemporary life, we realize that the earth from which Jesus' body and the bodies of all living creatures are gifts of God. These gifts, the soil, the water, plant life, animal life, human life, especially of the poor and people displaced because of climate change, are in peril. Can we open our eyes and ears to understand what is happening to our common home and free our tongues to bring the message to others? Can we listen to God's message of hope for restoration of our planet?

Pope Francis calls us as a society to work for the health of our social institutions and systems: city planning, architecture, housing, transport, services to rural areas which contribute to human health, healing and happiness.

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

Ecology studies the relationship between living organisms and the environment in which they develop. ...Just as the different aspects of the planet-physical, chemical and biological-are interrelated, so too living species are part of a network which we will never fully explore and understand. A good part of our

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genetic code is shared by many living beings. It follows that the fragmentation of knowledge and isolation of bits of information can actually become a form of ignorance, unless they are integrated into a broader vision of reality [#138]

If everything is related, then the health of a society's institutions has consequences for the environment and the quality of human life. [142]

The acceptance of our bodies as God's gift is vital for welcoming and accepting the entire world as a gift from our Father and our common home, whereas thinking that we enjoy absolute power over our own bodies turns, often subtly, into thinking that we enjoy absolute power over creation [155]

Underlying the principle of the common good is respect for the human person as such, endowed with basic and inalienable rights ordered to his or her integral development... [#156]

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That we might open our eyes and ears to what is happening on and to the earth and speak about it to those around us, we pray...Lord, hear our prayer.

**Option 2:** That we might act to heal the earth with both hope and realism, we pray...Lord, hear our prayer.

### Further Resources

Feedback: [Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org](mailto:Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org)

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

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