

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 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle C (September 4, 2022)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Wisdom 9: The deliberations of mortals are timid, unsure are our plans ... You had given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high? Thus were the paths of those on earth made straight.

Psalms 90: In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge. ... Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart.

Philemon 9: You might have [Onesimus] back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a brother.

Luke 14: "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ... Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? ... Anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."

† Comments for the Day:

At the end of June, we began to read Luke's account of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem from Galilee. Jesus was "resolutely determined" to make that trip, and he asked his disciples to go with him. He sent them out in pairs, seventy-two of them, to prepare people for his visits to one town after another. Along the way he invited others to follow him. He kept teaching people about such things as how to pray, how to be courageous, how to heal, and how to use parables to help people understand his teachings. In today's gospel, Jesus tells his disciples they must let go of their attachments, so they be open to carry their cross and go forward with him.

Today's reading from the book of Wisdom reminds us that we tend to be "unsure of our plans." This means we are often too comfortable with the way things are. We are just observers who avoid doing anything that involves carrying our cross. So, through the scriptures and the Holy Spirit, our Creator tells us how to walk the straight paths on earth. God invites us to travel with him, calling us to be disciples and to get on with the business of accomplishing Jesus' mission.

These teachings have special meaning during the weeks Pope Francis has asked us to observe as a "Season of Creation," from September 1 to October 4 every year. It's like an add-on season following Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. He's calling for it because earth, our common home, is sinking into bad shape and needs the kind of healing Jesus did on his journey to Jerusalem. As today's Gospel puts it, we have to "carry our own cross" by "renouncing all our

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possessions” that are contributing to earth’s demise. They’re making us sick and killing a lot of earth’s vitality. The earth's poor are already suffering the most from environmental degradation and climate change, and future generations will fare even worse.

There are many ways to get involved in the Season of Creation. The Vatican is encouraging us to get involved in such projects as the *Laudato Si* Movement, the St. Francis Pledge, and other efforts of religious communities. They get what’s happening, but too many of us don’t. All of us, as lovers of life and God's creation, need to do what is needed to "care for our common home." It’s the call of our creator in these times, in this special Season of Creation.

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

Everything is interconnected. ... It follows that the fragmentation of knowledge and the isolation of bits of information can actually become a form of ignorance, unless they are integrated into a broader vision of reality. (138)

When we speak of the ‘environment’, what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and the society which lives in it. ... We are not faced with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and, at the same time, protecting nature. (139)

Authentic development includes efforts to bring about an integral improvement in the quality of human life, and this entails considering the setting in which people live their lives. ... If close and warm relationships develop, if communities are created, if the limitations of the environment are compensated for in the interior of each person who feels held within a network of solidarity and belonging, ... any place can turn from being a hell on earth into the setting for a dignified life. (147-148)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That, as we face the climate crisis, our commitment to Jesus Christ and his mission always takes precedence over politics or ideologies, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That, as the school year begins, parents, teachers, and catechists inspire young people to understand that everything is interconnected: earth, human life, and all creation, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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