

Integral Faith

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



Homily Resources and Petitions for the 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B (16 September 2018)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

READING: Isaiah 50-I have set my face like flint, knowing I shall not be put to shame. He is near who upholds my right.

READING: Psalm 114-For he has freed my should from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. I shall walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

READING: James 2-Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works.

READING: Mark 8-For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it

† Comment for the day:

Suffering and finding God and greater life through suffering is a main theme in today's scripture. Our first reading is the third Suffering Servant Song of four in the book of Isaiah. The Suffering Servant expresses confidence that God is with him as he endures undeserved punishment. He has listened to God's word in preparation for speaking it to the exiled Israelites. His message has brought him pain and rejection, but God is his companion. James presents an acid test to all who call themselves Christians. Our faith is hollow unless it is expressed, and works are the only indication of a person's faith. Social justice is not optional. Our passage from Mark's gospel is a turning point: Jesus has left Galilee where he preached and worked miracles for the crowds and entered pagan territory and an unfriendly Judea. He now focuses on the formation of his clueless disciples who do not understand what his being the Christ really means. Neither do they understand the necessity of losing one's deafness to the needs of others and the world and accepting suffering in order to gain a deeper, greater, vitality and understanding of God's purpose for our human lives.

Pope Francis urges us to look beyond our comfort level to what is happening our environment and to the needs of others, including those suffering from climate change. He also encourages us to act with courage and speak about climate change in our own locality and advocate for climate-friendly political and economic policies.

† Passages from Laudato Si' to note:

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]

The notion of the common good also extends to future generations... We can no longer speak of sustainable development apart from intergenerational solidarity. Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others. [#159]

The majority of the people on this planet profess to be believers. This should spur religions to dialogue among themselves for the sake of protecting nature, defending the poor, and building networks of respect and fraternity [#201]

Yet all is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start, despite their mental and social conditioning. We are able to take an honest look at ourselves, to acknowledge our deep dissatisfaction, and to embark on new paths to authentic freedom [205]

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we might be doers of God's word and not just hearers, we pray... Lord, hear our prayer.

Option 2: That we might have the courage to live a more authentic life to which Jesus invites us, we pray to the Lord.

Further Resources

Feedback: Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org

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

Visit our webpage to sign up to receive these resources delivered to your email inbox each month.