

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 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B (September 12, 2021)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

James 2: What good is it if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it?

Mark 8: Jesus said, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it."

† Comments for the Day:

Today's gospel reminds us that we are all afflicted with a tendency to look out mostly for ourselves. That is true whether we are thinking about our family, our neighborhood, or even our nation, without consideration of our brothers and sisters elsewhere in the world. Jesus challenges us quite starkly: focus on your life and you'll lose out. Conversely, focus on the situations of others and their well-being, at some cost to yourself, and your life will be better. The gospel of God's love for us includes an expectation that we are sharing that love with others. That means laying down our lives in various ways to serve others.

The wisdom from St. James' letter couldn't be clearer: if someone has faith but doesn't do something loving with it for others, what good is their faith? It's not even good for such a person.

This Season of Creation (September 1 to October 4, St. Francis' feast day) is a good time to consider what each of us can do to improve the environment in which we all live, particularly in our home and community. Such a simple thing as helping to keep our neighborhood clean and beautiful, or reducing our use of fuel and other resources, can contribute to our collective care of creation. Joining in such an effort with others of different backgrounds, cultures, or religions can make the world a better place. Jesus calls us to do just that. "Take up your cross, and follow me," he says. "Help me complete my mission on earth."

† 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

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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 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)

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... No system can completely suppress our openness to what is good, true and beautiful, or our God-given ability to respond to his grace at work deep in our hearts. (205)

Disinterested concern for others, and the rejection of every form of self-centeredness and self-absorption, are essential if we truly wish to care for our brothers and sisters and for the natural environment. These attitudes also attune us to the moral imperative of assessing the impact of our every action and personal decision on the world around us. (208)

A person who could afford to spend and consume more but regularly uses less heating and wears warmer clothes, shows the kind of convictions and attitudes which help to protect the environment. There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions [that] reflect a generous and worthy creativity which brings out the best in human beings. (211)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we will help take care of our common home, the earth entrusted to us, starting with our neighborhood and community, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That we will respond to this Season of Creation's call by committing ourselves to a lifestyle that minimizes the damage we might be doing to the environment that sustains all life, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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