

Integral Faith

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



Homily Resources and Petitions for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B, 23 September, 2018)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

READING: Wisdom 2-With revilement and torture let us put the just one to the test that we may have proof of his gentleness and try his patience.

READING: Psalm 54-Behold, God is my helper; the Lord sustains my life.

READING: James 3-You do not possess because you do not ask. You ask but do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend on your passions.

READING: Mark 9-If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.

† Comment for the day:

”Frederick Beuchner once remarked, “Envy is the consuming desire to have everybody else as unsuccessful as you are.” *. We humans are often afraid that we are not all that we should be. We constantly compare ourselves to others and often come up short in our own eyes. Unfortunately we often try to make ourselves feel better about ourselves by putting others down. Today’s scripture readings offer us food for thought on the subject of envy. Unlike most of us, the wicked in the passage from Wisdom are honest with themselves about their motives for attacking the just-envy. The just one, who resembles the Suffering Servant of last Sunday’s first reading and foreshadows Jesus, is hated because the just one is a living reproach and a source of discomfort to the wicked who want to believe that their selfish way of life has no consequences. James sees envy as the root of much of the evil and disorder caused by humans and suffered by humans. Envy causes dissension in and among individuals, groups, and nations. It leads us to forget gratitude for the many blessings we do have. It leads us to strive to ‘Keep up with the Joneses’ no matter what the cost to inner peace, harmony with others, care for the needy, or care for the earth. Jesus is teaching his disciples a reversal of the values which are the result of envy. They will not understand until they witness his death, resurrection and the coming of the Spirit. By putting his arms around a child Jesus makes a strong point. Children were not coddled and sentimentalized in the ancient world. They had no rights. They represent the innocent, the ones open to hear God’s word, the ones without ambition, undefended against exploitation.

Pope Francis continually reminds us of the terrible effects that consumerism has wrought on our psyches, our ability to be content with what we have, on the lives of innocent creatures, on the environment.

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

A consumerist vision of human beings encouraged by the mechanisms of today's globalized economy has a leveling effect on cultures, diminishing the immense variety which is the heritage of all humanity. [#144]

We make every effort to adapt to our environment, but when it is disorderly, chaotic or saturated with noise and ugliness, such overstimulation makes it difficult to find ourselves integrated and happy. [#147]

The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change has so stretched the planet's capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes such as those even now periodically appear in different areas of the world... We need to reflect on our accountability before those who will have to endure the dire consequences. [#161]

Parents can be prone to impulsive and wasteful consumption, which then affects their children... Furthermore, our inability to think seriously about future generations is linked to our inability to broaden the scope of our present interests and to give consideration to those who remain excluded from development. [#162]

RELATED PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Option 1: That we might have the wisdom to educate our children about consumerism and protect them from its effects, we pray to the Lord... Lord, hear our prayer.

Option 2: That we might have the courage to live according to Christian values, even in the face of opposition, we pray to the Lord... Lord hear our prayer.

Further Resources

Feedback: Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org

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

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