

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 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (October 1, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Ezekiel 18: He shall surely live, he shall not die.

Philippians 2: Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others.

Matthew 21: "A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.' He said in reply, 'I will not,' but afterwards changed his mind and went."

† Comments for the Day:

The Good News we are reminded of today is that God, like a loving parent, loves each and every one of us as though we were the only one. He longs to see all of us happy and fulfilled. Just as a parent longs to see their child grow and be healthy, so our God shared Jesus with us to bring us back to the path to abundant life.

While that might sound reasonable and easy to grasp, in practice we find something quite different. The heat dome, tropical wildfires, political polarization, warring factions in many parts of the world, and even neighbors fighting over limited and basic resources. The temptation to look out for ourselves at the expense of others is all too present, especially in this age of social media and what Pope Francis calls our "culture of consumerism."

And yet, as we are reminded in the readings today, it is never too late for us to change our lives and, with God's grace, to change for the better. We can choose to turn away from selfish and destructive ways of living with the confidence that we will be accepted and forgiven because God is always waiting for us to draw closer.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis echoes this theme, holding out the hope that humanity will accept and fulfill its responsibility to care of our common home. We are challenged to remember that we are truly members of one family, called to share concern and care for one another. And this includes caring for the environment, God's creation, that sustains all life.

At the same time, we humans need humility to recognize that we have often abrogated that responsibility. We do so by choosing short-term wealth and comfort over the well-being of the earth. We also do so by turning a blind eye to government and corporate policies that devastate

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forests, pollute the air, oppose climate action, and obliterate whole species with whom we share this planet – the only one we have.

St. Paul reminds us that Christ is our model and inspiration. We are called to live our lives and make our choices in line with the values for which he lived and died. These include looking beyond our own self-interest to the needs of others. Our willingness to shoulder our ecological responsibilities will benefit many: our children and grandchildren, our communities, and the poor and vulnerable who suffer most from pollution and climate change.

God promises life in abundance for us and for all His magnificent creation. The human tendency to both take responsibility and fail to follow through reminds us that, even though we might have fine ideals, thoughts, and words, it is we actually do that counts. This is the true obedience to which we are called today.

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

Although the post-industrial period may well be remembered as one of the most irresponsible in history, nonetheless there is reason to hope that humanity at the dawn of the twenty-first century will be remembered for having generously shouldered its grave responsibilities. (165)

In any event, if in some cases sustainable development were to involve new forms of growth, in other cases ... we need also to think of containing growth by setting some reasonable limits and even retracing our steps before it is too late. (193)

If we want to bring about deep change, we need to realize that certain mindsets really do influence our behaviour. Our efforts at education will be inadequate and ineffectual unless we strive to promote a new way of thinking about human beings, life, society and our relationship with nature. Otherwise, the paradigm of consumerism will continue to advance, with the help of the media and the highly effective workings of the market. (215)

Once we lose our humility, and become enthralled with the possibility of limitless mastery over everything, we inevitably end up harming society and the environment. (224)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we might have the grace to move beyond our own interests and accept responsibility for care of our common home, its people, and all of its creatures, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That our choices and actions embody the teaching and example of Jesus, who gave his life for all of the earth's people, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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