

# 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 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (October 8, 2023)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Isaiah 5:** What more was there to do for my vineyard that I had not done? Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes?

**Philippians 4:** Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.

**Matthew 21:** Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey.

#### † Comments for the Day:

Jesus inaugurated the reign of God using the image of a vineyard, inviting those who believe in the values it embodies to give witness in the world of a better way of being – one more human, in which all things can become more fully alive. That means you and I, and all those who profess to follow Christ and witness to his mission and destiny. We are in fact one family caring for each other and "our common home."

It can be too easy for us to romanticize Jesus and his message, effortlessly ignoring the testimony that scripture provides. Jesus' parable about the vineyard tenants is part of his ongoing dispute with the chief priests and elders, who represent the established order. They are more concerned about maintaining their privilege than sharing what God created for the good of all. This rings true for many leaders in our world today.

What is the meaning of the parable for us, two thousand years after Jesus offered this invitation to conversion? All creation, the whole web of life, has been given to us by God to tend. It is our responsibility to live out our faith by caring for one another and for God's creation, the natural environment. We can do this by standing alongside the poor and oppressed who cry out because they are most severely affected by environmental destruction, exploitation, and climate change.

We are not powerless in the face of the situation of the world today. Is God, our loving Father, to blame for hunger and homelessness, extreme drought and flooding, famine and disease? Rather, it is all of us when we overuse and abuse our natural resources, and squirrel away what God has destined for the good of all. If selfishness and greed beget suffering and death, what can we do?

We can make choices in what we buy, what we consume, and how we live our lives. These choices can promote the well-being of God's wonderful creation, along with our sisters and

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brothers. If we take part in the political process, our vote can stand in countercultural protest. Just as Jesus and his followers experienced derision and opposition, we can expect the same.

This week we have had the opportunity to remember Francis of Assisi, an outstanding role model of how our actions affect creation, how everything is interrelated and interdependent. Francis was someone who read the signs of the times and then made choices that were very different from those around him. Through his love of creation, he inspired thousands to follow him in the footsteps of Jesus, proclaiming the universal brotherhood and sisterhood of all peoples and of creation itself. Do we have the courage to do the same?

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

I believe that Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically ... Francis helps us to see that an integral ecology calls for openness to categories which transcend the language of mathematics and biology, and take us to the heart of what it is to be human. (10-11)

The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us: he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home. (13)

Everything is interconnected, and that genuine care for our own lives and our relationships with nature is inseparable from fraternity, justice and faithfulness to others. (70)

A politics concerned with immediate results, supported by consumerist sectors of the population, is driven to produce short-term growth... True statecraft is manifest when, in difficult times, we uphold high principles and think of the long-term common good. (178)

Let us keep in mind the principle of subsidiarity, which grants freedom to develop the capabilities present at every level of society, while also demanding a greater sense of responsibility for the common good from those who wield greater power. (196)

## Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That all people might enjoy the rights and privileges commensurate with their dignity as children of God, and take part in earth's abundant feast, let us pray to the Lord ...

**Option 2:** That citizens hold our leaders accountable for creating policies that defend the earth, protect life, and promote equality for all, let us pray to the Lord ...

## Further Resources

**Feedback:** [info@catholicclimatecovenant.org](mailto:info@catholicclimatecovenant.org)

**Webpage:** [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help)

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