

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 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (October 15, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Isaiah 25: On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples.

Philippians 4: I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. I can do all things in him who strengthens me.

Matthew 22: The servants went out into the street and gathered all they found, bad and good alike.

† Comments for the Day:

So much of our life centers on food and festivities. Created in the image of a loving and caring God, we come together regularly to nourish mind and heart, as well as our very selves, through shared laughter and tears. Food invites us to come together, to realize our calling and destiny.

Isaiah describes a joyous and lavish feast provided by God, which is also a thanksgiving to God for delivering us from our enemies. These can be likened to those impulses within each of us, manifested in our greed and selfishness. All people and all nations are given the hope that despair, sadness, pain, and guilt will be no more. God is a host who feeds, anoints, protects, and gives hope.

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul assures us that all is a gift from God. He expresses his joy and gratitude for the encouragement, financial support, and friendship that he has received.

In the gospel, Jesus announces a marvelous new event in the history of humanity's relationship to God: the banquet he invites us to that envisions a celebration with doors wide open to anyone, wicked or good, rich or poor. It is not an affair for the elite only; those who are accustomed to dine in the grand ballroom might find it more difficult to share freely with those accustomed to a soup kitchen. But for Jesus and his followers, all are welcome. All are worthy, and all deserve a place at the table.

Migration is a sign of our times. Many people leave, at great sacrifice, the place where they were born in search of a better life. Hopefully, what they seek is not a matter of having more, but rather a way of being more like God: open to sharing with others, aware that all is given as gift, neither earned or deserved, but a true blessing to be shared and celebrated.

This resource is provided by Catholic Climate Covenant in collaboration with the Integral Faith Team, a group of male and female religious, priests, and lay people dedicated to serving the Church.

Unfortunately, many migrants find their dreams slammed in their face by a closed door, closed heart, clenched fist, of those unwilling to recognize that all is gift, given to be shared and enjoyed by all. Often, they are fleeing, not because they want to, but because they have to: due to violence, poverty, exploitation, or more recently the impacts of climate change.

Pope Francis reminds us that God is the ultimate source of all creation, the Host of that vast banquet to which all are invited, and by which all are sustained. He is especially concerned with the poor, who usually suffer the most from environmental degradation and climate change – which, in the final analysis, is a manifestation of greed, consumption, and selfish individualism.

In today's parable the original invitees were too busy to join the celebration because they had their own private agendas that they considered more important. Will we commit ourselves to the task, or will we prioritize our own agendas and be "too busy" to attend, too selfish to share what has been freely gifted to us, and meant to be shared for the good of all?

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

"Both everyday experience and scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest."... The impact of present imbalances is also seen in the premature death of many of the poor, in conflicts sparked by the shortage of resources, and in any number of other problems which are insufficiently represented on global agendas. (48)

The natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone.... That is why the New Zealand bishops asked what the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" means when "twenty percent of the world's population consumes resources at a rate that robs the poor nations and future generations of what they need to survive." (95)

The mindset which leaves no room for sincere concern for the environment is the same mindset which lacks concern for the inclusion of the most vulnerable members of society. (196)

In the meantime, we come together to take charge of this home which has been entrusted to us, knowing that all the good which exists here will be taken up into the heavenly feast... May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope. (244)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we be given the grace to see beyond our individual concerns, to commit to caring for all of our sisters and brothers by caring for our common home, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That we might advocate for those who are suffering the effects of climate change and unjust social structures, so they too can rejoice in the feast that God provides for all, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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