

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 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (January 15, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Isaiah 49: It is too little, the Lord says, for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

Psalms 40: Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.... Ears open to obedience you gave me.... To do your will, O my God, is my delight.

1 Corinthians 1: [From] Paul... to you who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be holy.

John 1: John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.... Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

† Comments for the Day:

Medieval theologians used a Latin axiom in their theological reasoning: "*Bonum est diffusivum sui*," which means, "The good diffuses itself." The divine goodness and love found within the three persons of the Trinity poured out continually into time and space in the act of creation. The Trinity is still pouring out that love in our lifetime, and will surely persist long into the future. As products of this creative act of love, we humans are called to share God's overflowing goodness in our world today.

In today's first reading, the prophet Isaiah is called not only to restore the tribes of Jacob, but also to be a light to all nations so that God's love might reach "the ends of the earth" – everywhere and everyone. Paul then reminds us that we "have been sanctified" by our baptism and are now "called to be saints," the Creator's agents, persons who work to build God's kingdom of love, truth, peace and justice in our world. Quite a challenge, but God helps us do it.

Lastly, John's Gospel assures us that Jesus, the Lamb of God, undergirds the entire process by taking away the sin of the world. More directly, Christ invites each and every one of us to leave behind our pettiness, greed, and egotism to live for others.

In this same spirit, Pope Francis' great teaching, *Laudato Si'*, or "*Praised Be*," reminds us that we face a complex crisis which is both social and environmental. The lives of many people today are threatened by such difficulties as violence and war, urban overcrowding, homelessness, and a

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.

lack of health care. Increasingly, they are also being impacted by climate change through drought, flooding, famine, and disease. Therefore, we must find strategies that promote an integral approach to restoring the dignity of people pushed to the margins of society, often excluded and combating poverty.

We are all responsible to defend life – all life, from amoebas to elephants, not just our own. Part of this is upholding our charge to be stewards of God's creation, the environment on which all life depends. In the words of the Responsorial Psalm, we are called to proclaim: "Here I am Lord; I come to do your will...my delight."

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

We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature. (139)

We take [ecosystems] into account not only to determine how best to use them, but also because they have an intrinsic value independent of their usefulness. Each organism, as a creature of God, is good and admirable in itself; the same is true of the harmonious ensemble of organisms existing in a defined space and functioning as a system. Although we are often not aware of it, we depend on these larger systems for our own existence. (140)

Authentic development includes efforts to bring about an integral improvement in the quality of human life, and this entails considering the setting in which people live their lives. (147)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: Loving God, we ask that you grant us the courage to say “yes” to your will, as we struggle to secure the dignity of all persons and the health of the planet that sustains us, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: Loving God, help us to work effectively together, especially with our sisters and brothers around the world, to find solutions for the common problems in caring for our "common home," let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

Visit our webpage and sign up to receive these resources delivered to your email inbox each month.