

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 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (October 29, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Exodus 22: "You shall not molest or oppress an alien ... You shall not wrong any widow or orphan. If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry ... for I am compassionate."

1 Thessalonians 1: "For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth not only in Macedonia and in Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has gone forth."

Matthew 22: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.... You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

† Comments for the Day:

Recent articles warn us of the danger of toxic clutter: the ordinary, steady din of traffic, compounded by the blast from jet engines; the deafening roar of music delivered directly into our ears; and other manifestations that accumulatively induce us to grow deaf to other, less cantankerous resonances. The steady accumulation of noise pollution and the distress propounded by this cacophony practically eradicate the ability to hear and truly listen. And listening is essential to authentic communication. How can we truly relate to others if we lose the ability to listen?

If we are indifferent to others or have little or no interest in relating to them, there is no hope that we will hear what they are trying to communicate. In order to be able to hear the cry of the poor, or the lament of the planet, we must have the ability to listen attentively, to actively pursue what ordinary noise mutes or makes more difficult to distinguish.

Jesus learned and taught how to listen actively. He learned to search eyes and to notice behavior. He reflected. He was deeply attentive to the word of God. He found space for quiet and for time alone. He developed a personal sensitivity to people that only comes from actively listening.

In that same vein, Pope Francis reminds us that relationships are key to our growth, both physically and spiritually: with God, with other people, and with other creatures that are part of God's creation. Developing these relationships and building community require really listening to one another. Good listening increases the trust, openness, and understanding that create authentic community. People who truly listen to one another are drawn together in a special bond. Effective listening can promote spiritual growth, toward wholeness – and holiness.

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.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

While the existing world order proves powerless to assume its responsibilities, local individuals and groups can make a real difference. They are able to instill a greater sense of responsibility, a strong sense of community, a readiness to protect others, a spirit of creativity and a deep love of the land. (179)

The majority of people living on our planet profess to be believers. This should spur religions to dialogue among themselves for the sake of protecting nature, defending the poor, and building networks of respect and fraternity. (201)

Disinterested concern for others and the rejection of every form of self-centeredness and self-absorption, are essential if we truly wish to care for our brothers and sisters and for the natural environment. These attitudes also attune us to the moral imperative of assessing the impact of our every action and personal decision on the world around us. (208)

Inner peace is closely related to care for ecology and for the common good ... Nature is filled with words of love, but how can we listen to them amid constant noise, interminable & nerve-racking distractions, or the cult of appearances?... An integral ecology includes taking time to recover a serene harmony with creation. (225)

The human person grows more, matures more and is sanctified more to the extent that he or she enters into relationships going out from themselves to live in communion with God, with others and with all creatures. In this way, they make their own that trinitarian dynamism which God imprinted in them when they were created.... Everything is interconnected, and this invites us to develop a spirituality of that global solidarity which flows from the mystery of the Trinity. (240)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That the Spirit will help us grow in compassion for others to lead us to care for the most vulnerable, and for the earth on which all life depends, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That the Spirit guide our choices, so that we prioritize care for the earth, our common home, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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