

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 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (November 5, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Malachi 1: You have turned aside from the way, and have caused many to falter by your instruction.

Psalms 131: O Lord, my heart is not proud, nor are my eyes haughty.

1 Thessalonians 2: We were gentle among you, as a nursing mother cares for her children.... You recall, brothers and sisters, our toil and drudgery. Working night and day in order not to burden any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

Matthew 23: The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

† Comments for the Day:

Today's scripture readings focus on spiritual leadership. Malachi takes the priests of Israel to task for neglecting to help the people's faith grow. Instead, they make decisions that lead to corruption and forgetfulness of God's gift of the Covenant.

Paul writes to the Thessalonians to remind them that he had worked beside them and preached the word of God without payment. He counseled them to serve the community while awaiting Jesus' return. Then, in Matthew's gospel, Jesus criticizes the Pharisees for flaunting their religious status to oppress the common people. He flips their presumption of self-righteousness on its head.

Many of our leaders today deny the impact of climate change. Meanwhile, wildfires, storms, and floods destroy people's homes and livelihoods – and even their lives. Corporate leaders make false claims about their efforts to address climate change, and some have even promoted climate-change denial. Despite this, a majority of Americans now consider climate change a serious problem.

Now is the time to stress the urgency of working to combat climate change, to challenge erroneous assumptions presented by today's leaders. Let us do what we can to convince them to take action.

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:

We are called to be instruments of God our Father, so that our planet might be what he desired when he created it and correspond with his plan for peace, beauty and fullness. The problem is that we still lack the culture needed to confront this crisis. We lack leadership capable of striking out on new paths and meeting the needs of the present with concern for all and without prejudice towards coming generations. (53)

A politics concerned with immediate results, supported by consumerist sectors of the population, is driven to produce short-term growth. In response to electoral interests, governments are reluctant to upset the public with measures that could affect the level of consumption or create risks for foreign investment. The myopia of power politics delays the inclusion of a far-sighted environmental agenda within the overall agenda of governments.... True statecraft is manifest when, in difficult times, we uphold high principles and think of the long-term common good. (178)

Sobriety and humility were not favourably regarded in the last century. And yet, when there is a general breakdown in the exercise of a certain virtue in personal and social life, it ends causing a number of imbalances, including environmental ones.... 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 concerned citizens advocate for the health of our common home, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That we "die to self" by prioritizing protecting all life and creation over our own personal desires, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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