

Integral Faith

"Homily helps and liturgy resources highlighting care for our common home."



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B (November 7, 2021)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

1 Kings 17: The jar of flour shall not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry, until the day when the LORD sends rain upon the earth.

Psalms 146: The LORD gives sight to the blind. The LORD raises up those who were bowed down; the LORD loves the just. The LORD protects strangers.

Hebrews 9: Christ... will appear a second time, not to take away sin but to bring salvation to those who eagerly await him.

Mark 12: Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury.

† Comments for the Day:

The story in today's first reading juxtaposes two different attitudes: scarcity and abundance. The widow of Zarephath lives on a land devastated by drought. She is on the verge of starvation when Elijah holds up for her God's vision of abundance and promises that she and her son will be provided for. The pagan woman makes a leap of faith in favor of the God of abundance.

In today's world of plenty, there is a scandalous disparity between those who possess extraordinary wealth and those who live in abject poverty. The world's richest 1% has accumulated 43% of the world's material wealth, while the bottom 80% has just 6% of the wealth. When it comes to carbon emissions, the root cause of climate change, the world's richest 1% emit twice as much as the poorest 50% who also suffer the most from climate impacts.

The U.S. and some European countries claim to be defenders of Christian values yet appear to embrace policies based on fear, scarcity, and nationalism. Meanwhile, Bangladesh, a predominantly Muslim and very poor country, has taken in 800,000 Rohingya refugees. This enormous social inequality generates anxiety and desperation. Unless we tackle the problem of social inequality, it will likely lead to social unrest and massive migration, especially as we face the full consequences of climate change.

Today, Psalm 146 challenges us to decide what side we are on; we know where God's stands.

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:

There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation. They are not recognized by international conventions of refugees; they bear the loss of the lives they have left behind, without enjoying any legal protection whatsoever. Sadly there's widespread indifference to such suffering, which is now taking place throughout our world. (25)

We fail to see that some are mired in desperate and degrading poverty, with no way out, while others have not the faintest idea of what to do with their possessions, vainly showing off their supposed superiority and leaving behind them so much waste which, if it were the case everywhere, would destroy the planet. In practice, we continue to tolerate that some consider themselves more human than others, as if they had been born with greater rights. (90)

The current global situation engenders feeling of instability and uncertainty which in turn becomes "a seedbed for collective selfishness." When people become self-centered and self-inclosed, their greed increases. The emptier a persons' heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own consume. ... Our concern cannot be limited merely to the threat of extreme weather events, but must also extend to the catastrophic consequences of social unrest. Obsession with a consumerist lifestyle, above all when few people are capable of maintaining it, can only lead to violence and mutual destruction. (204)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That people of faith may recognize immigrants and refugees as innocent children of God, many of whom are fleeing impacts of climate change and resulting social unrest, we pray to the Lord....

Option 2: For people of faith in the United States, that we may all realize that a consumeristic lifestyle is incompatible with the culture of life, we pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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