

Integral Faith

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



Catholic Climate Covenantsm
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Homily Resources and Petitions for the 32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time Cycle C (November 10, 2019)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

2 Maccabees 7: Seven brothers with their mother were arrested and tortured...to force them to eat pork in violation of God's law.... You are depriving us of this present life but the King of the world will raise us up to live again forever.

Psalms 17: Keep me as the apple of your eye, hide me in the shadow of your wings.

2 Thessalonians 2,3: May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting encouragement and good hope...encourage your hearts and strengthen them....Pray for us, so that the word of the Lord may speed forward and be glorified...and that we may be delivered from perverse and wicked people, for not all have faith.

Luke 20: Some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection, came forward and put this question to Jesus...

That the dead will rise even Moses made known in the passage about the bush, when he called out 'Lord,' the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; for he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive."

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

Since the market tends to promote extreme consumerism..., people can easily get caught up in a whirlwind of needless buying and spending. Compulsive consumerism...leads people to believe that they are free as long as they have the supposed freedom to consume. (#203)

Obsession with a consumerist lifestyle, above all when few people are capable of maintaining it, can only lead to violence and mutual destruction. (#204)

Today the issue of environmental degradation challenges us to examine our lifestyle.... Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability.... If we can overcome individualism, we will truly be able to develop a different lifestyle and bring about significant changes in society. (#206, 207, 208)

An awareness of the gravity of today's cultural and ecological crisis must be translated into new habits.... Environmental education...aimed at creating an 'ecological citizenship,' is at times limited to providing information and fails to instill good habits.... Only by cultivating sound virtues will people be able to make a selfless ecological commitment.... Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting that directly and significantly affect the world around us.... We must not think that these efforts are not going to change the world. (#209,210, 211, 213)

† **Comment for the day:**

In our reading from 2 Maccabees, torturers relentlessly take the lives of seven brothers while their mother looks on. Yet because they had faith in God's goodness and power to restore them to a better life, they were willing to sacrifice what was precious to them, life itself.

And what about ourselves? When we reflect on the health of our planet, we see that consumerism is just as relentless, causing fish stocks in the oceans to perish, forests in the tropics to fall to plantations, and overused aquifers in arid regions to fail. Scientists increasingly issue warning cries that the way human beings are treating the earth, our Common Home, threatens its ability to sustain life into the future. The idolatry of consumerism that drives this relentless process attempts to convince us that happiness resides in bowing to its will. However, when we look to the seven brothers in the book of Maccabees, we see that they knew that life only comes from God.

In his encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home*, Pope Francis calls us all to an ecological conversion. Can we, like the seven brothers, make sacrifices in order to be faithful to God? Like the mother and her sons, do we trust that God is the source of authentic life? They believed in the power of the resurrection even before the time of Christ. We who have witnessed the power of God in the resurrection of Christ can also trust in that power to transform our own lives and heal our planet.

The Psalmist prays, "Keep me as the apple of your eye, hide me in the shadow of your wings." Christ has assured us that we are the apple of God's eye! We trust that God wants the best for us. Our God is not God of the dead, but of the living!

† **Related Prayers of the Faithful:**

Option 1: That God may inspire us with a spirit of generosity and freedom, that we may curb our consumption-driven lifestyles and adopt habits better for our environment and our relations with others, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: Trusting that we are the apple of his eye, may God heal us and raise us up so that we can make choices that take the good of all into account, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 3: That the Spirit of God may guide all nations as they grapple with how to respond to the challenges of climate change with courage needed and adopt practices that will best serve the generations to come, let us pray to the Lord....

Feedback: Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org

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