

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (November 19, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Proverbs 31: Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Psalms 128: The Lord bless you from Zion: may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

1 Thessalonians 5: Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober.

Matthew 25: So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter?

† Comments for the Day:

Our first reading today describes a woman who is the embodiment of the feminine Wisdom we heard about last Sunday. She has strength. She is not obsessed with physical beauty. Her priorities are creating a home that serves the needs of the household and the family she loves. She is also mindful of the poor.

Paul, writing from prison, continues teaching the Thessalonians about the coming of Christ. He reassures them that their beloved dead will rise with them when Christ takes the living and the dead to Heaven.

Most of us were taught that the Parable of the Talents is about using our gifts to work for the Kingdom. Others, however, believe that the parable is a condemnation of an economic system that has low-wage workers earning money for investors and the wealthy who benefit from their toil. So, the servant with one talent represents the heroes who refuse to participate in an unjust system.

Like the worthy wife whose good management provides her family with all they need, we are called to promote a just economic system for all. Such a system would, in turn, promote environmental justice that would benefit the poor and most vulnerable.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

We are convinced that "man is the source, the focus and the aim of all economic and social life".... We need to remember that men and women have "the capacity to improve their lot, to

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.

further their moral growth and to develop their spiritual endowments"... it is essential that "we continue to prioritize the goal of access to steady employment for everyone", no matter the limited interests of business and dubious economic reasoning. (127)

While some are concerned only with financial gain, and others with holding on to or increasing their power, what we are left with are conflicts or spurious agreements where the last thing either party is concerned about is caring for the environment and protecting those who are most vulnerable. (198)

I would stress the great importance of the family, which is "the place in which life – the gift of God – can be properly welcomed and protected against the many attacks to which it is exposed, and can develop in accordance with what constitutes authentic human growth"... In the family we first learn to show love and respect for life; we are taught the proper use of things, order and cleanliness, respect for the local ecosystem and care for all creatures. (213)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That all families may nurture gratitude, respect for all life, and care for creation, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That all employers give their workers a just living wage, 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.