

Integral Faith

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



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

Homily Helps and Bulletin Notices for the Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle C (March 20, 2022)

Homily Helps

†: Scripture Passages to Note:

[Exodus 3]: “ I must go over to look at this remarkable sight...” Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place you stand is holy ground.

[Psalm 103]: Merciful and gracious is the LORD, slow to anger and abounding in kindness.

[1 Corinthians 10]: Therefore, whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall.

[Luke 13]: ...I shall cultivate the ground around and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future.

† Comments for the Day:

“Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.” With these words God called Moses to his prophetic vocation. Moses, the man with the fiery temper and the fugitive from the law, seems an unlikely person to receive a summons to intimacy with God and to serve as His spokesman. Moses noticed something unusual and looked closely, a look that led to a massive change to his life as a peaceful shepherd. And, with “Here I am” he begins a new life.

God appears to Moses through a bush. That bush was not consumed, but now thousands of acres of the earth’s forests are being consumed by fires caused by slash-and-burn clearing for crops like palm oil and grazing for cattle. The trees and bushes that exchange carbon dioxide and oxygen are disappearing due to human consumption, so that our air is more polluted and nature is devastated. NASA has recently published data showing that the earth is trapping heat at an unprecedented rate and that pollution is increasing.

Paul warns the Corinthians not to imitate the Israelites in the desert and make the mistake of losing faith in God’s love and care, and of descending into grumbling. Likewise, Jesus warns his listeners to stop taking God’s favor for granted and to repent. The repentance he wants is not self-flagellation or guilt. It’s a change in our hearts and consciousness so we can see the world and the Lord himself in a new way.

Part of that is the realization that the whole earth is sacred ground, that we must put aside complacency about its future and help the earth, and our souls, bear fruit while we still have the

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chance. Let's make a metanoia, a change in consciousness, part of our Lenten practice – as a step toward caring for our common home.

† **Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:**

We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all...Regrettably, many efforts to seek concrete solutions to the environmental crisis have proved ineffective, not only because of powerful opposition but also because of a more general lack of interest. Obstructionist attitudes, even on the part of believers, can range from denial of the problem to indifference, nonchalant resignation or blind confidence in technological solutions...All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her culture, involvements and talents. (14)

The bishops of Brazil have pointed out that nature as a whole not only manifests God but is also a locus of his presence. The Spirit of life dwells in every living creature and calls us to enter into relationship with him. Discovering this presence leads us to cultivate the “ecological virtues” (88)

This is the basis of our conviction that, as part of the universe, called into being by one Father, all of us are linked by unseen bonds and together form a universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect. (89)

A healthy relationship with creation is one dimension of overall personal conversion, which entails the recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures, and leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change. The Australian bishops spoke of the importance of such conversion for achieving reconciliation with creation: “To achieve such reconciliation, we must examine our lives and acknowledge the ways in which we have harmed God’s creation through our actions and our failure to act. We need to experience a conversion, or change of heart”. (218)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we become more aware of the need to heal our common home and spread that message to the people around us, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That we become more aware of the presence of God in nature and in one another, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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