

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 Petitions for the Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle A (March 19, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

1 Samuel 16: Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart.

Psalms 23: Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.

Ephesians 5: "Awake, O sleeper, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

John 9: "I came into this world for judgement, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."

† Comments for the Day:

The themes of light and darkness, sight and blindness, appearance and reality, unite today's readings.

There is a condition called "Anton's Syndrome," in which people who are blind don't realize or accept that they are blind. They stumble over objects and even refuse to listen to those who try to help them. In today's Gospel, Jesus is speaking about spiritual darkness, aimed at those who don't recognize their own spiritual blindness.

In Jesus' time, the end of day looked a lot different than it does in our modern society. Night brought terrifying darkness where unknown dangers awaited. Today, while the use of artificial light can provide some level of safety and security, it is also overused for signs and ornamental lighting, and wasted in empty parking lots and unoccupied buildings. This "light pollution" often leads to confusion and danger for many animals and birds.

It could be said that the majority of people in the developed world are afflicted with Anton's Syndrome, especially when it comes to the environment. In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis calls us to awaken and arise from our trance of denial of the harm being done to God's creation. Are we ready to wake up and heed the call?

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

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. Obstructive attitudes, even on the part of believers, can range from denial of the problem

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to indifference, nonchalant resignation or blind confidence in technological solutions We require a new and universal solidarity. . . . All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents. (14)

We can note the rise of a false or superficial ecology which bolsters complacency and a cheerful recklessness. . . . Superficially, apart from a few obvious signs of pollution and deterioration, things do not look that serious, and the planet could continue as it is for some time. Such evasiveness serves as a license to carrying on with our present lifestyles and models of production and consumption. This is the way human beings contrive to feed their self-destructive vices: trying not to see them, trying not to acknowledge them, delaying the important decisions and pretending that nothing will happen. (59)

The ultimate purpose of other creatures not to be found in us. Rather, all creatures are moving forward with us and through us towards a common point of arrival, which is God, in that transcendent fullness where the risen Christ embraces and illumines all things. Human beings, endowed with intelligence and love are drawn by the fullness of Christ, are called to lead all creatures back to their Creator. (83)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we might overcome our complacency about the damage inflicted on God’s creation, let us pray to the Lord.

Option 2: That we support those persons and organizations that work for and advocate for the healing of our climate, let us pray to the Lord.

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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