

Integral Faith

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



Homily Resources and Petitions for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle C (3 February 2019)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Jeremiah 1:5, 19: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you....

They will fight against you but not prevail over you, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.

Psalms 71:3,4: Be my rock of refuge, a stronghold to give me safety, for you are my rock and my fortress. O my God, rescue me from the hand of the wicked.

1st Corinthians 13:1, 13: If I speak in human and angelic tongues, but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal....

So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Luke 4:24, 28: And he said, "Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place."... When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

Citing Saint John Paul II, *Laudato Si'* reminds us, "it is not in accord with God's plan that this gift be used in such a way that its benefits favour only a few". (*Homily at Mass for Farmers, Recife, Brazil, 7 July 1980*) This calls into serious question the unjust habits of a part of humanity. (*Message for the 1990 World Day of Peace*) (#93)

The rich and the poor have equal dignity, for "the Lord is the maker of them all" (Prov 22:2). "He himself made both small and great" (Wis 6:7)... This has practical consequences, such as those pointed out by the bishops of Paraguay: "Every campesino has a natural right to possess a reasonable allotment of land where he can establish his home, work for subsistence of his family and a secure life..." (#94)

The natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone. (#95)

Our insistence that each human being is an image of God should not make us overlook the fact that each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. (#84)

† **Comment for the day:**

In our Gospel reading, Jesus challenges the people of Nazareth by observing that a prophet is never accepted in his hometown. Jeremiah, too, had to gird himself against the rejection of his contemporaries. Nonetheless, both Jeremiah and Jesus remained steadfast because they knew they were doing God's will and announcing his message. In our own day, we are aware of people such as Martin Luther King and Rachel Carson, who spoke a word that others in society found hard to accept. In *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis, too, offers a message of challenge and of hope in an era where the din of capitalism, profit, and individualism would drown out all else. We look to all these examples as we contemplate the vocation God has for each of us. In today's world, a Christian must remain steadfast.

† **Related Prayers of the Faithful**

Option 1: That we may take comfort and strength from the remembrance that God's love never ends, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That we may respond to the prophets among us who challenge us to practice justice for the poor and for our common home, let us pray to the Lord...

† **Sample Bulletin Notice**

Today's readings balance comfort and challenge. God loves us into being from the first moment of our conception, watching over us even in our mother's womb. God will deliver us from trials. God will be our rock of refuge and our hope. Yet God also sends His prophets to admonish. Who are the prophets among us preaching justice for the poor, for the earth, for the "other?" If it is true that prophets are not accepted in their own native places, do we sometimes reject those who bring God's word of challenge to us? In today's world, Pope Francis sounds a prophetic voice in *Laudato Si'*, his encyclical on care for the Earth, our common home. It can be downloaded without cost at the website of the Holy See <http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html> (see "Encyclicals").

Further Resources

Feedback: Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org

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

Visit our webpage to sign up to receive these resources delivered to your email inbox each month.