

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 Fourth Sunday of Lent Cycle C (March 31, 2019)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Joshua 5: No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan.

Psalms 34: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

2nd Corinthians 5: If anyone is in Christ that one is a new creation....

All of this has been done in God who has reconciled us to God's self through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Luke 15: [H]e squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation....

This brother of yours was dead and has come back to life.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

Men and women have constantly intervened in nature, but for a long time this meant being in tune with and respecting the possibilities offered by the things themselves. (#106)

When human beings fail to find their true place in this world, they misunderstand themselves and end up acting against themselves. (#115)

Each organism, as a creature of God, is good and admirable in itself; the same is true of the harmonious ensemble of organisms existing in a defined space and functioning as a system (#140).

We urgently need a humanism capable of bringing together the different fields of knowledge, including economics, in the service of a more integral and integrating mission (#141).

Having a home has much to do with a sense of personal dignity and the growth of families (#152).

Our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes such as those which even now periodically occur in different areas of the world (#161).

[O]ur inability to think seriously about future generations is linked to our inability to broaden the scope of our present interests and give consideration to those who remain excluded from development (#162).

† Comment for the day:

The scriptures for today center on love, forgiveness, reconciliation and coming to our true home. The Israelites come into the home that God has given them and work the land for their sustenance. Paul

urges a reconciliation in Christ that honors the dignity of all. The younger son is lost for a while in his addiction to the things that money buys. Fortunately, the love and forgiveness of his father is there to restore him to the home he had taken for granted and abandoned.

Our modern economic life was made possible by having great amounts of energy available, especially energy from fossil fuels. These fuels, however, now threaten the well-being of our planet. And the modern economy produces such an excess of consumer goods that government and industry try to devise ways to stimulate consumption. Pope Francis sees the ways that our addictions to fossil fuels and cheap consumer goods have led us to forget who we are and the importance of caring for our common home. He envisions us "coming to our senses at last," and participating in God's work of bringing about a new creation for our common home.

In his reflection on our inability to think seriously about future generations, the Pope links it to our inability to broaden the scope of our present interests and give consideration to those who remain excluded from development. Our future must be built on solidarity and not on greed and individualism.

† **Related Prayers of the Faithful:**

Option 1: That our personal experience of the mercy and forgiveness of our loving God will lead us to be present to all sisters and brothers throughout the world, especially those who are most marginalized and vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That at the conclusion of the Week of Solidarity with the peoples struggling against racism and racial discrimination, we might join with all people of good will in promoting the rights and dignity of all, let us pray to the Lord....

† **Sample Bulletin Notice:**

In our second reading (2 Cor 5: 17 - 21), Paul implores us on behalf of Christ to be reconciled to God. Jesus' parable in Luke reminds us that we, like the older son, are with God always. *Laudato Si'* consistently reminds us that God is present in every living organism, as well as in the environment in which they develop. "It cannot be emphasized enough," writes Pope Francis, "how everything is interconnected. Time and space are not independent of one another, and not even atoms or subatomic particles can be considered in isolation" (paragraph 138). Let us grow in our ability to be reconciled to God, present throughout our interrelated common home.

Feedback: Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org

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