

**Homily Helps and Petitions for the  
Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle C (February 6, 2022)**

**Homily Helps**

† **Scripture Passages to Note:**

**Isaiah 6:8:** Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" "Here I am," I said; "send me!"

**Psalms 138:3:** When I called, you answered me; you built up strength within me.

**1st Corinthians 15:8-10:** Last of all, as to one born abnormally, he appeared to me. For I am the least of the apostles, not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me has not been ineffective.

**Luke 5:8, 10:** "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man."... Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."

† **Comments for the Day:**

In *The Lord of the Rings*, there is a dramatic moment when the gathered representatives of the different races are faced with the challenge: Who will carry the ring? As all continue to look at one another in consternation, it is the smallest among them, Frodo Baggins, who offers to carry the ring, and the hopes of the united races, into unknown dangers. Like Isaiah in the first reading, Paul in the second, and Noah in the passage below from *Laudato Si'*, Frodo is able to accept a challenge despite his fears.

In an era when people worship self-expression and autonomy, wealth and success, Christians are called to witness to a faith in God that is expressed in our love for one another and for creation with which God has gifted us. It is easy to feel overwhelmed and not up to the task. However, we recall the apostles, simple craftsmen and fishermen, who met the challenge before them because God sustained them in their callings.

*Laudato Si'* points to the ways that God calls our own generation to live more simply, care for the poor, and care for creation, often in the face of what seem to be relentless trends to the contrary. But we, too, can trust that our own witness to the truth will accomplish its end if this is the work God calls us to.

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

Although "the wickedness of man was great in the earth" (Gen 6:5) and the Lord "was sorry that he had made man on the earth" (Gen 6:6), nonetheless, through Noah, who remained innocent and just, God decided to open a path of salvation. In this way he gave humanity the chance of a new beginning. All it takes is one good person to restore hope! (#71)

Nature is usually seen as a system which can be studied, understood and controlled, whereas creation can only be understood as a gift from the outstretched hand of the Father of all, and as a reality illuminated by the love which calls us together into universal communion. (#76)

Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth. (#92)

The natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone. . . . That is why the New Zealand bishops asked what the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" means when "twenty percent of the world's population consumes resources at a rate that robs the poor nations and future generations of what they need to survive." (#95)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** For a deeper awareness of God's grace working within us, and the challenges to which it continuously calls us, let us pray to the Lord...

**Option 2:** That, like the apostles, we might move beyond our fears and respond to the promptings of the Spirit to care for earth, our common home, let us pray to the Lord...

### Further Resources

**Feedback:** [info@catholicclimatecovenant.org](mailto:info@catholicclimatecovenant.org)

**Webpage:** <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources?tid=14>

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