

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Helps and Petitions for the Feast of All Saints, Cycle B (November 1, 2021)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Revelation 7:** He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels who were given power to damage the land and the sea, "Do not damage the land or the sea or the trees until we put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God."

**Psalms 24:** The Lord's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it. For he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

**1 John 3:** Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him ...

**Matthew 5:** Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

#### † Comments for the Day:

The gospel for this Feast of All Saints presents us with a dramatic scene that opens with an angel tasked with marking 144,000 people, symbolically representing all the tribes of Israel. Then countless others from all peoples of the earth bow in acknowledgement that God is creator of the earth and that the Lamb, Jesus, out of love, has shed his blood for all humanity. The seals on their foreheads testify to their identity as Christians.

Today we honor the saints, people who took their Christian identity seriously and lived it out wherever they were. They realized that they were in the service of something greater than themselves and remained faithful despite great tribulation. They have entered into Jesus' sacrifice of his body and blood. They are the people that Jesus described as blessed, which means happy.

Probably the greatest tribulation of our time is the climate crisis that disproportionately affects the poor. We can honor martyrs who have mourned over land that was taken from them for industrial use, and who died defending the poor and the earth. These include Dorothy Stang in Brazil, Berta Caceres in Honduras, Bill Kayong in Malaysia, Ken Saro-wiwa in Nigeria, and many others. They knew that the earth is God's gift to all peoples, not a commodity to be exploited for profit.

Like them, we are called to defend "the earth and its fullness," and to be servants of God as caretakers of creation.

This resource is provided by Catholic Climate Covenant in collaboration with the Integral Faith Team, a group of male and female religious, priests, and lay people dedicated to serving the Church.

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

Modern anthropocentrism has paradoxically ended up prizing technical thought over reality, since “the technological mind sees nature as an insensate order, as a cold body of facts, as a mere ‘given,’ as an object of utility, as raw material to be hammered into useful shape; it views the cosmos similarly as mere ‘space’ into which objects can be thrown with complete indifference”. The intrinsic dignity of the world is thus compromised....“Not only has God given the earth to man, who must use it with respect for the original good purpose for which it was given, but man too is God’s gift to man. He must therefore respect the natural and moral structure with which he has been endowed”. (115)

We take [ecosystems] into account not only to determine how best to use them, but also because they have an intrinsic value independent of their usefulness. 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. Although we are often not aware of it, we depend on these larger systems for our own existence. (140)

Society is also enriched by a countless array of organizations which work to promote the common good and to defend the environment whether natural or urban... A community can break out of the indifference induced by consumerism. These actions cultivate a shared identity, with a story which can be remembered and handed on. In this way, the world, and the quality of life of the poorest, are cared for, with a sense of solidarity which is at the same time aware that we live in a common home which God has entrusted to us. These community actions, when they express self-giving love, can also become intense spiritual experiences. (232)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That we might grow in self-giving love for our brothers and sisters and for the earth, our common home, let us pray to the Lord...

**Option 2:** That we might recognize the dignity of all peoples of every race, nationality, and religion, particularly the poor who suffer most from the effects of climate change, let us pray to the Lord...

### Further Resources

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

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

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