

Integral Faith

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



Catholic Climate Covenant[™]
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Homily Helps and Bulletin Notices for the Feast of the Annunciation, Cycle C (25 March, 2022)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

[**Isaiah 7**]: Ask for a sign from the Lord, your God

[**Psalms 40**]: To do your will, O God, is my delight, and your law is within my heart

[**Hebrews 10**]: Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me.

[**Gospel**]: May it be done to me according to your word.

† Comments for the Day:

Ahaz the king of Israel was terrified. The kingdoms of Israel and Aram had made a pact to attack his kingdom Judea. The prophet Isaiah advises Ahaz to ask God for a sign as confirmation of God's protection. Ahaz arrogantly refuses to humble himself by asking for God's assurance, but God gives him a sign anyway: a child will be born, a child who will be a savior to his people.

Mary's reply to God's messenger is a stark contrast to the king's refusal. Gabriel tells her that she will be the bearer of the God who is with us. Mary is not passive: she questions the truth of the angel's message, listens to Gabriel's answer and assents to God's plan for humankind with her whole heart. Thus God, the creator of the earth, takes on a human body made of elements of the earth.

For the past couple of centuries, much of humankind has lost respect for the earth, God's creation. Instead of seeing nature as a gift from God, many individuals, governments, and corporations only regard the soil, the water, the wildlife as resources to monetize. Rising seas, polluted air, ravaged forests, riverbeds choked with debris, and the disappearance of sea life from our plastic-filled oceans are signs of the damage we have inflicted on our planet – the same planet that Jesus walked on as he brought the good news that God is with us.

More and more corporations are promoting their environmentally responsible products. Some of this is "greenwashing," advertising that exaggerates the sustainability of these products, but even that is a sign that the tide of public opinion is turning and that so many people want to be environmentally responsible. The decision of the major oil corporations not to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is surely based on public opinion, but it is a step toward a world in which children, like Jesus who loved children, can flourish in a beautiful, safe, and thriving world.

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:

These situations have caused sister earth, along with all the abandoned of our world, to cry out, pleading that we take another course. Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years. (53)

Modern anthropocentrism has paradoxically ending 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...” The intrinsic dignity of the world is thus compromised. (115)

What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? . . . what is at stake is our own dignity. Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is, first and foremost, up to us. The issue is one which dramatically affects us, for it has to do with the ultimate meaning of our earthly sojourn. (160)

The principle of the maximization of profits, frequently isolated from other considerations, reflects a misunderstanding of the very concept of the economy. As long as production is increased, little concern is given to whether it is at the cost of future resources or the health of the environment; as long as the clearing of a forest increases production, no one calculates the losses entailed in the desertification of the land, the harm done to biodiversity or the increased pollution. (195)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we might have the courage to answer Pope Francis’ message to care for our common home, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That our children and their children will be able to grow up on an earth that is green, fertile, and thriving, let us pray to the Lord...

For more information, see: www.catholicclimatecovenant.org

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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