

Integral Faith

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



Homily Resources and Petitions for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Cycle C (13 January 2019)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Isaiah 42:1, 3: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit.... A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching.

Psalm 29:3: The voice of the LORD is over the waters, the LORD, over vast waters.

Luke 3:21-22: After all the people had been baptized, Jesus also had been baptized and was praying.... And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations. (#67)

The laws found in the Bible dwell on relationships, not only among individuals but also with other living beings ... clearly, the Bible has no place for a tyrannical anthropocentrism unconcerned for other creatures. (#68)

The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God. (#84)

The natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone. If we make something our own, it is only to administer it for the good of all. (#95)

† Comment for the day:

Today we celebrate the feast of the baptism of Jesus. When Jesus emerges from the waters a voice from Heaven declares that Jesus is God's Son, with whom God is "well pleased." This moment reminds us of the first chapter of Genesis. There creation emerges from the waters, and God declares that it is good. From this perspective, one can view God's creation coming to fullness and completion in the baptism of Jesus, who is the summit of all perfection.

We also note that God declares Jesus to be his Son. In Jewish tradition, one who did the will of God was *a son of God*. As *the Son of God*, Jesus is now commissioned as the one who does the will of the God, bringing reconciliation to a world broken by sin. By coming to repair what was broken by sin, Jesus also restores Creation. Indeed, the "justice" that the prophets speak of is not the diminished

notion of retribution that seems to dominate our contemporary world. Rather, it refers to the order that God intends for our world. That is God's justice. As Jesus' followers, all Christians share in his mission of reconciliation and renewal so that the world God intended from the beginning is made manifest.

An additional insight to consider: In Genesis and in the account of Jesus' baptism, we see that water is a sign and source of new life. Thus when we Christians see water, we ought to view it with reverence. It is a "natural symbol" which points us to God, who is the source of all life.

† **Related Prayers of the Faithful**

Option 1: For a deeper appreciation of the Sacrament of Baptism and our membership in the Catholic community, let us pray to the Lord

Option 2: That we will reverence and appreciate God's gift of water, let us pray to the Lord

† **Sample Bulletin Notice**

Many of us have attended and even participated in the baptism of another. In the sacrament we use water as a symbol of life. In the United States, clear, clean water for this sacrament is readily available. Not so in many other places on this world we share with our brothers and sisters: many lack sufficient clean water for survival. The number of children who die each day because of poor water, sanitation, and hygiene would fill 90 school buses. If each day 90 school busses filled with kindergartners crashed with no survivors, the world would take note. One constructive response we can make is to increase support for organizations like Catholic Relief services, which has a highly acclaimed international reputation for helping those who lack the basic necessities of life. The Bible call us to reverence water, to protect it, and to act to assist those suffering from its scarcity.

Further Resources

Feedback: Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org

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

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