

Integral Faith

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



Homily Resources and Petitions for the Feast of the Epiphany Cycle C (6 January 2019)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Isaiah 60:2-3: "See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance.

Psalms 72:7-8, 12-13: "Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. ... He shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save."

Ephesians 3:6: "The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise ..."

Matthew 2: "We saw his star at its rising. ... Then Herod ... ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. ... And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star.... Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

"The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. ... A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system... Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it. It is true that there are other factors (such as volcanic activity, variations in the earth's orbit and axis, the solar cycle), yet a number of scientific studies indicate that most global warming in recent decades is due to the great concentration of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxides and others) released mainly as a result of human activity. As these gases build up in the atmosphere, they hamper the escape of heat produced by sunlight at the earth's surface." (#23)

"We need to acknowledge that different approaches and lines of thought have emerged regarding this situation and its possible solutions. At one extreme, we find those who doggedly uphold the myth of progress and tell us that ecological problems will solve themselves simply with the application of new technology and without any need for ethical considerations or deep change. At the other extreme are those who view men and women and all their interventions as no more than a threat, jeopardizing the global ecosystem, and consequently the presence of human beings on the planet should be reduced and all forms of intervention prohibited. Viable future scenarios will have to be generated between these

extremes, since there is no one path to a solution. This makes a variety of proposals possible, all capable of entering into dialogue with a view to developing comprehensive solutions." (#60)

"The earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she 'groans in travail' (*Rom 8:22*)." (#2)

"[St. Francis] was particularly concerned for God's creation and for the poor and outcast. ... He was a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself. He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace." (#10)

"I will point to the intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet, the conviction that everything in the world is connected, the critique of new paradigms and forms of power derived from technology, the call to seek other ways of understanding the economy and progress, the value proper to each creature, the human meaning of ecology, the need for forthright and honest debate, the serious responsibility of international and local policy, the throwaway culture and the proposal of a new lifestyle." (#16)

† **Comment for the day:**

The Magi were Gentiles, symbolic of all the peoples of earth, all of whom are meant by God to be coheirs, members of the one Body of Christ, partners in the promise of God's creation. We are all in this together. The climactic darkness that covers much of the earth traps many, especially the poor, in places where they cannot see the stars for the darkness of smog or constancy of city lights. We disciples of Jesus live in the new Jerusalem to help bring light to the nations so all humankind can walk by our light. Even leaders need the shining radiance of our concern and care for our common home. Our lifestyle is to provide an example that will enable justice to flower in our day and profound peace with nature and among peoples.

† **Related Prayers of the Faithful:**

Option 1: That we may deepen our relationship with God, with our neighbors, and with all life on earth, let us pray to the Lord

Option 2: For the grace to find the divine in all things, let us pray to the Lord

† **Sample Bulletin Notice**

EPIPHANY MEANS MANIFESTATION. Today we celebrate the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world. Christian tradition sees the Magi as representing all the peoples of Earth and Epiphany as an affirmation of universal salvation. Pope Francis reminds us that "all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another." (#42) "Human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbor and with the earth itself." (#66) As we pray the words of the Our Father "thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," may we keep these connections in mind.

Further Resources

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