

Integral Faith

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



Homily Resources and Petitions for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B (26 August 2018)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Joshua: If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord has eyes for the just, and ears for their cry.

Ephesians: Brothers and sisters: Live in love, as Christ loved us.

John: Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you also want to leave?” Simon Peter answered him, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

All of this shows the urgent need for us to move forward in a bold cultural revolution. (#114).

Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God. Otherwise, it would be nothing more than romantic individualism dressed up in ecological garb, locking us into a stifling immanence. (#119).

When human beings place themselves at the center, they give absolute priority to immediate convenience and all else becomes relative. (#122).

† Comment for the day:

Today’s readings underscore the need for each of us to reflect on the ultimate values of our life, and then to make decisions to live according to these values. In the Old Testament the People of God often wavered in their commitment to the Covenant relationship with God. In the first reading Joshua makes it abundantly clear that the people must choose for or against God. In the Gospel, Jesus reminds the Apostles that they are free and need to decide consciously to follow in his footsteps. Peter is forceful in his reply and says that they will stay, because Jesus has “the words of eternal life.” These words demand that we live in love, as Jesus so generously did in his time among us.

In *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis calls on all people of good will to participate urgently in “a bold cultural revolution.” Such a revolution will challenge our values, priorities and lifestyle, causing us to evaluate how we interact with one another and with our common home, the earth. The Pope is of course extremely concerned with the plight of the environment, but makes it amply clear that such a concern cannot be separated from our relationship with God and with other people. Such a separation would bring about nothing more than “romantic individualism dressed up in ecological garb.”

In order to bring about this cultural revolution, people must recognize that their lives cannot center on themselves. In the Gospels Jesus is not at the center of his own preaching. Rather, he constantly teaches about and exhorts his listeners to be about the Kingdom of God, that place of justice, peace, love and truth where people are concerned with others in the first place, and not with themselves, their immediate convenience and needs.

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we might move beyond self-centeredness, and place God, others and the world before ourselves, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That we take the time to reflect on the ultimate values of our life, and find the courage to live according to these values, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org

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

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