

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Resources and Petitions for the Feast of Holy Trinity, Cycle B (27 May 2018)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture passages to note:

**Deuteronomy 4:** You must keep his statutes and commandments that I enjoin on you today, that you and your children after you may prosper.

**Romans 8:** For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a Spirit of adoption, through whom we cry, "Abba, Father!"

**Matthew 28:** Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

**Mark 14:** "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many..."

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

17. ...our present situation (of humanity) is in many ways unprecedented in the history of humanity.

23. The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all...Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption.

49. Today...we have to realize that a true ecological approach *always* becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear *both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor*.

231. Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world. Love for society and commitment to the common good are outstanding expressions of a charity which affects not only relationships between individuals but also "macro-relationships, social, economic and political ones".

#### † Comment for the day:

This resource is provided by the Integral Faith Team in collaboration with the [Catholic Climate Covenant](#), the [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#), the [Association of U.S. Catholic Priests](#), and the [Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center](#).

“If you see charity, you see the Trinity”, wrote Saint Augustine. Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si’* writes that “a social, political love” oriented towards the common good of all earth’s community of life is an outstanding expression of a charity. These insights invite a homilist to employ fresh metaphors in one’s homily - a shamrock, doesn’t have to be our fallback position. Can you think of three examples of an outstanding expression of social, political love at the local or global level?

- ❖ Groups of parishioners marching to uphold the dignity of human life while at the same time speaking out against racism, economic injustice, destruction of earth’s ecosystems and anti-immigrant policies?
- ❖ The Catholic Charities of your diocese serving the poor, disenfranchised, immigrants and refugees. You may want to check out: <https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/our-ministry/immigration-refugee-services>
- ❖ Catholic Climate Covenant [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org) assisting the people of faith in responding to the Gospel and teaching them to observe what God has commanded as they work out their ecological conversion.
- ❖ Catholic High School students getting involved against gun violence: <https://www.ncronline.org/news/justice/ncr-today/live-blog-march-our-lives-protests-across-us-gun-control>
- ❖ Catholic Charities demonstrating what it takes to help a person to choose life: <https://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/choosing-life-witnessing-gods-mercy-charity-justice/>

You may ask: how would that connect to today’s Scripture? Consider the following biblical leads:

- In today’s first reading, Moses beckons the people of Israel to remember what God has done for them. That in turn moves them to observe God’s statutes and commandments so that they and their children may prosper. Likewise, the contemporary Christians – in order to live, grow, and prosper - must remember what the Creator has done for them. Rain, sunlight, healthy soil and oceans, stable climate – these are all gifts to be shared, not squandered or abused. A failure to remember that represents the greatest threat to our personal and national security. How well we remember those things and action on that awareness will also influence our eternal destiny. Therefore, each one of us –individually and as a nation- must beware!
- In the second reading St. Paul addresses the Christian community in Rome. They are teetering between fear and hope. To help them be strong, the Apostle reminds them who they are: beloved children of God. At the present time of the daunting challenges facing our country and the world, we, too, are prone to fall into the paralyzing fear. We must reconnect with a deeper sense of who we are – and whose we are. That can empower us to stand up to the tyranny of fear and boldly carry on Christ’s mission of healing the broken world.

- Today’s Gospel passage is an account the Great Commission. Matthew situates it on the mountain. He wants to make it evocative of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. Keeping that in mind prevents us from slipping into a narrow, purely doctrinal or ritualistic interpretation of Jesus’ Grand Commission. Making disciples of all nations, teaching and observing what Christ has commanded us can never be separated from the imperative of showing mercy, pursuing justice, promoting peace. Our Church continues to embrace that truth with its full breath of possibilities and implications. The Catholic Bishops from around the world, gathered at the Vatican back in 1971 articulated poignantly the core of today’s Gospel: *“Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel, or, in other words, of the Church’s mission for the redemption of the human race and its liberation from every oppressive situation.”*

Therefore, it is not a far-fetched statement to say that responding to Christ’s Grand Commission to preach the Gospel to all nations compels us to care for the poor and safeguard our common home. We also need to transform our lifestyles, social and political structures that subjugate and tramples upon the poor and vulnerable. Our willingness to believe in it and act upon in faith and trust in Christ is the measure of how authentically we embrace the truth of the Holy Trinity.

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That the celebration of today’s Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ will help the parishes in our (diocese or archdiocese) to hear and respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, let us pray to the Lord....

**Option 2:** For the faith-based and secular organizations that are working to safeguard life by addressing the issue of climate change, seeking to end our country’s deadly addiction to fossil fuels, and promoting clean, renewable energy, let us pray to the Lord....

### Further Resources

Feedback: [Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org](mailto:Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org)

Webpage: [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help)

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