

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the 5th Sunday of Lent, Cycle A (2 April 2017)

Homily Helps

† Comment for the day:

Jesus was warned that Lazarus was ill. He promised that the illness would not end in death but did not say explain further. He delayed going to Lazarus, and Lazarus died. Jesus said he would awaken him. So he went to the place of death, a place where people were trying to kill Jesus also, there to open Lazarus's grave, raise him up and restore him to the land to continue his life's work. Jesus got there in time!

Climate scientists are advising us that our planet is ill. They warn that if we do not act quickly to address the symptoms, earth's ability to sustain human life, and many other species, as well, is in jeopardy. Earth could become a tomb instead of a garden. In our Gospel reading Jesus teaches us that God wants life, not death. However, in our own day, what path do we ourselves travel? Do we follow the path of consumerism and indifference to the plight of others and the Earth? Or do we do our part to alter patterns of exploitation and foster hope, instead. Jesus tells us, "I am the resurrection and the life." If we believe, will we follow on the path he sets before us?

† Scripture passages to note:

Ezekiel 37: I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel... I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon the land: thus you shall know that I am the Lord.

Psalms response: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Romans 8: Brothers and sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you.

John 11: The sisters Martha and Mary sent word to Jesus saying, "Master, the one you love is ill." When Jesus heard this he said, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it... Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him." ... Jesus was talking about his death. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ... "I am the resurrection and the life... Do you believe this?"

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

Any approach to an integral ecology, which by definition does not exclude human beings, needs to take account of the value of labour, as Saint John Paul II wisely noted in his Encyclical *Laborem Exercens*. According to the biblical account of creation, God placed man and woman in the garden he had created (cf. Gen 2:15) not only to preserve it ("keep") but also to make it fruitful ("till"). (#124)

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.

Homily Helps (cont.)

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note (cont.):

Underlying every form of work is a concept of the relationship which we can and must have with what is other than ourselves. Together with the awe-filled contemplation of creation which we find in Saint Francis of Assisi, the Christian spiritual tradition has also developed a rich and balanced understanding of the meaning of work, as, for example, in the life of Blessed Charles de Foucauld and his followers. (#125)

Seeing manual labour as spiritually meaningful proved revolutionary. Personal growth and sanctification came to be sought in the interplay of recollection and work. This way of experiencing work makes us more protective and respectful of the environment; it imbues our relationship to the world with a healthy sobriety. (#126)

Work should be the setting for this rich personal growth, where many aspects of life enter into play: creativity, planning for the future, developing our talents, living out our values, relating to others, giving glory to God. (#127)

Helping the poor financially must always be a provisional solution in the face of pressing needs. The broader objective should always be to allow them a dignified life through work. Yet the orientation of the economy has favored a kind of technological progress in which the costs of production are reduced by laying off workers and replacing them with machines... To stop investing in people in order to gain greater short-term financial gain is bad business for society." (#128)

To claim economic freedom while real conditions bar many people from actual access to it and while possibilities for employment continue to shrink is to practice a doublespeak that bring politics into disrepute. Business is a noble vocation, directed to producing wealth and improving our world. It can be a fruitful source of prosperity for the areas in which it operates, especially if it sees the creation of jobs as an essential part of its service to the common good. (#129)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: May God give us the insight to appreciate that our labor should be a source of healthy productivity, a healthy society, and a healthy relationship with our neighbors, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: May God inspire all employers to include the creation of jobs as one of their top duties and priorities, so that all persons can find meaningful work, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com

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

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