

Integral Faith

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



Homily Resources and Petitions for the Ordinary Time, Cycle B (10 June 2018)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Genesis 3: ...the LORD God called to the man and asked him, "Where are you?"

Mark 3: The scribes who had come from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "By the prince of demons he drives out demons." ... whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of the everlasting sin... For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.

† 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:

Today's reading from Genesis alludes to the fact that our failure to remember who we are and where we live constitute the roots of sin. In a similar vein, Saint John Paul II wrote that at the root of our ecological crisis lies "the anthropological error," that is, we forgot who we are and what it means to be human. And just like in the case of our archetypal biblical ancestors, Adam and Eve, there are serious ramifications of this lapse. It should also be noted that these extend beyond the personal level to take on social, political, and even ecological dimensions.

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](#).

As a homilist, you may want to illustrate how those dynamics play out in contemporary America. For example, consider the recent decision of our country's leaders to largely turn our backs on tens of thousands of desperate children, women, and men seeking refuge. Some of our fellow Americans choose to ignore the fact that their ancestors, too, came to this country fleeing abject poverty and violence. It is easy to lose sight of how much we are indebted to others: to our families and communities, cultures and societies. We sometimes forget that we are beneficiaries of the land, the oceans, and the various ecosystems. They are God's unmerited gifts to us. A failure to see our proper place within God's beautiful tapestry of life leads us to miss the mark of what it means to be truly human.

It sounds ludicrous to us that in the Gospel, the scribes accuse Jesus of being possessed by Beelzebul. But doesn't that situation find an echo in our contemporary times? Think of some specific people or groups in our country or in your city or state who, like Jesus, are engaged in expelling demons. There are demons of fear and ignorance; demons of arrogance and abuse of power; demons of racism and violence. You may have heard some ludicrous claims by those who grab and hold onto power. They sometimes accuse those who follow in the footsteps of Jesus and lift up the poor and vulnerable of actually hurting them. Consider the following examples:

- o An immigrant mother trying to save the life of her teenage son who is fleeing a war-zone of Honduras is charged with human trafficking.
- o An American citizen protesting against the torture and the sale of US-made weapons to oppressive, violent regimes is accused of being unpatriotic.
- o Young people protesting against the epidemic of gun violence and its profiteers are being criticized by as being misinformed and as pawns of the anti-life forces. Their thinking has become so muddled that they see guns as "pro-life." The examples of such blasphemies against the Holy Spirit abound and can be found in the daily news...

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: For millions of people around the world who are environmental refugees, may we as a nation seek the grace of conversion and turn away from the unjust, selfish and harmful policies that harm the poor and undermine their right to life, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That our Church may not be afraid to face opposition and slender as she stands her ground and speaks against public policies that offend human dignity, crush the poor, aggravate economic injustice and destroy the life-support system of our common home, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org

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

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