

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A (1 October 2017)

Homily Helps

† Comment for the day:

The Scripture readings for this Sunday present us with an encouraging message: It is never too late for us to change our lives, and, with God's grace, to change our lives for the better. In our passage from Ezekiel God answers the grumbling and the charge of unfairness voiced by the Hebrew exiles in Babylon. God tells them that rather than blame their ancestors for their circumstances they must take personal responsibility for their own actions. We can choose to turn away from destructive ways of living with the confidence that we will be accepted and forgiven because God is always waiting for us to draw closer.

In *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis echoes this theme in our Scripture readings, holding out the hope that humankind will accept and live out its responsibility to care of our common home.

At the same time we humans must have the humility to recognize that we have at times betrayed that responsibility, and even now sometimes ignore it. We can do so by choosing short-term wealth and comfort over the well-being of the earth; we can do so by turning a blind eye to government and corporate policies that devastate forests, pollute the air, and obliterate whole species of creatures with whom we share the planet.

St. Paul tells us that we must have the same attitude that Christ has. Christ is our model and inspiration, and we are called to live our lives and make our choices in line with the values for which he lived and died. These include looking beyond our own self-interest to the needs of others. Our willingness to shoulder our ecological responsibilities will benefit many: our children and grandchildren, the larger community, especially those who suffer most from the devastation of the earth – the poor, our fellow creatures, and the Earth itself. God promises life for those who choose life, life for us and life for all God's magnificent creation.

The human tendency both to take responsibility and to fail to follow through is exemplified in the two sons of Matthew's parable. The story reminds us that we might have fine ideals, fine thoughts, and fine words, but what we choose to do is what counts. This is the true obedience to which we are called today.

† Scripture passages to note:

Ezekiel 18: But if he turns from the wickedness he has committed, he does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life: since he has turned away from all the sins that he has committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

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.)

† Scripture passages to note (cont.):

Philippians 2: Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus....[H]e humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Matthew 21: He said in reply, 'I will not,' but afterwards changed his mind and went.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

Although the post-industrial period may well be remembered as one of the most irresponsible in history, nonetheless there is reason to hope that humanity, at the dawn of the twenty-first century will be remembered for having generously shouldered its grave responsibilities. (#165)

In any event, if in some cases sustainable development were to involve new forms of growth, then, in other cases...we need also to think of containing growth by setting some reasonable limits and even retracing our steps before it is too late. (#193)

Once we lose our humility and become enthralled with the possibility of limitless mastery over everything, we inevitably end up harming society and the environment. (#224)

The hand that blesses is an instrument of God's love and a reflection of the closeness of Jesus Christ, who came to accompany us on the journey of life...who himself took a body for the world's salvation (#235)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we might have the grace to move beyond our own interests and accept responsibility for the health and life of our common home, its people, and all of its creatures, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That our choices and actions embody the teaching and example of Jesus, who gave his life for all of the earth's people, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com

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

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