

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the 8th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (26 February 2017)

Homily Helps

† **Comment for the day:**

St. Paul reminds us that we, as Christians, are called to be stewards of the mysteries of God. We do that when we celebrate the sacraments, read Sacred Scripture, and pass on the Faith to our children. However, it doesn't end there. There is one very important thing that we often forget. It is our call to care for God's creation. God speaks to us not only through Scriptural texts but also through the Book of Creation. In today's Gospel, by pointing to the Book of Creation Jesus leads us to reflect upon the mysteries of God's love and providence. This is a key part of our ancient tradition that Pope Francis and previous pontiffs have challenged us to recover. So what does it mean for us to be stewards of God's mysteries at the time when our rivers, oceans, and air are becoming seriously contaminated, and when entire ecosystems are threatened? For us, as stewards of the mysteries of God, this is not just a political or economic issue: It is profoundly religious matter. Indeed, it poses a question about whether we as individuals and as a nation choose to serve God or mammon.

† **Scripture passages to note:**

Isaiah 49: Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you.

1 Corinthians 4: Thus should one regard us: as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

Matthew 6: You cannot serve God and mammon... Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them... Learn from the way the wild flowers grow...

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

Saint Francis, faithful to Scripture, invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness. (#12)

God has written a precious book, "whose letters are the multitude of created things present in the universe". The Canadian bishops rightly pointed out that no creature is excluded from this manifestation of God: "From panoramic vistas to the tiniest living form, nature is a constant source of wonder and awe. It is also a continuing revelation of the divine". (#85)

The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God. (#84)

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.):

The same mindset which stands in the way of making radical decisions to reverse the trend of global warming also stands in the way of achieving the goal of eliminating poverty. A more responsible overall approach is needed to deal with both problems: the reduction of pollution and the development of poorer countries and regions. (#175)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: For parents and catechists that they may be strengthened in their task of teaching children about the mysteries of God and inspiring in them a sense of awe, wonder and care for God's creation, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: For ourselves that we may recognize a tender caress of God in the love of our family and friends and in the beauty of God's creation, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com

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

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