

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Helps and Petitions for the 1st Sunday of Lent, Cycle A (1 March 2020)

### Homily Helps

#### † Comment for the day:

Our faith story from Genesis on is long and consistent: humankind – each of us personally and all of us together in cultures and companies and nations – have been entrusted with an ability to make decisions that have enormous consequences. These decisions affect us, and also the planet on which we live. Lent reminds us of that capacity and calls us to ponder the consequences of our decisions. *Laudato Si'* blows the whistle on us as it were. It asks us to take a balanced view of both the benefits and the costs of the powerful technology that stamps our culture. This First Sunday of Lent suggests that we see ourselves as Adam and Eve standing before a wondrously beautiful and potentially enriching tree. It asks: Are we using the technocratic power we have developed over time as we should? What norms are we using? What responsibility are we accepting for the consequences?

Adam and Eve made decisions on the basis of what pleased them, but in doing so they inflicted deadly consequences upon humankind. Jesus was tempted to make decisions that would bring him comfort, prestige and power. However, he refused, and so he became the source of our life and our salvation. Lent gives us an opportunity to reflect on our decisions and their consequences – past, present, and to come.

An added incentive during Lent 2020 to reflect on our responsibility to care for the world in which we live and which we share with all of God's creatures, is a double anniversary. April 22<sup>nd</sup> is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the celebration of Earth Day, and 2020 marks the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the encyclical *Laudato Si'*. What difference have the celebration of Earth Day and the message of *Laudato Si'* made in the way that we live our daily lives?

#### † Scripture passages to note:

**Genesis 2,3:** The Lord planted a garden in Eden, ... made various trees grow that were delightful to look at and good for food, with the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ... God said, 'You shall not eat the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden or even touch it, lest you die.' ... The woman saw that the tree was good for food, pleasing to the eyes, and desirable for gaining wisdom.

**Psalm response:** Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

**Romans 5:** If by the transgression of the one, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ.

## Homily Helps (cont.)

### † Scripture passages to note (cont.):

**Matthew 4:** Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert... He fasted for forty days and forty nights and afterwards he was hungry... If you are the Son of God, command that these stones,...throw yourself down... The devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said 'All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me.'

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

A certain way of understanding human life and activity has gone awry to the serious detriment of the world around us... I propose that we focus on the dominant technocratic paradigm and the place of human beings and of human action in the world. (#101)

Humanity has entered a new era in which our technical prowess has brought us to a crossroads... Technology has remedied countless evils that used to harm and limit human beings. (#102)

Technoscience can produce important means of improving the quality of human life. (#103)

Yet it must be recognized... [that] many other abilities we have acquired have given us tremendous power. (#104)

The fact is that 'contemporary man has not been trained to use power well' because our immense technological development has not been accompanied by a development in human responsibility, values and conscience... It is possible that we do not grasp the gravity of the challenges now before us. (#105)

## Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That on the fifth anniversary of the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, we rededicate ourselves to the protection of our Sister, Mother Earth, let us pray to the Lord....

**Option 2:** That our leaders may come to see that technology and science must be wielded with humility and justice, and that they are not substitutes for these virtues, 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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