

Integral Faith

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



Catholic Climate Covenant™
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Homily Helps and Petitions for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, Cycle A (June 4, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Exodus 34: The Lord passed before him and cried out, "The Lord, the Lord, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity."... [Moses said] This is indeed a stiff-necked people; yet pardon our wickedness and sins, and receive us as your own."

Daniel 3: Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, praiseworthy and exalted above all forever; And blessed is your holy and glorious name, praiseworthy and exalted above all for all ages.

John 3: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

† Comments for the Day:

In today's Gospel from John, we are told that God so loved the world that he sent his Son so that the world might be saved. Through Jesus we are brought into the relationship of love that binds the Trinity together. This love certainly binds humans to God. But do we also consider that it binds us to God's creation, since His love extends to all of creation? Are we "stiff-necked people" in our lack of response to God's love, and our inability to embrace others and seek to alleviate the groaning of creation?

Rather than preserving the earth, human activity seems to be taking its toll at an ever-quickening pace. In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis observes, "Human intervention ... is actually making our earth less rich and beautiful ... even as technological advances and consumer goods continue to abound limitlessly" (34). He also warns, "The continued acceleration of changes affecting humanity and the planet might be called 'rapidification.' Although change is part of the working of complex systems, the speed with which human activity has developed contrasts with the naturally slow pace of biological evolution." (18)

How much are we willing to modify our behaviors to curb the escalating pace of consumerism and resource depletion? Accepting this call is a first step toward the challenge issued by Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'*, to "try to read reality in a Trinitarian key" (239). As we celebrate Trinity Sunday, let us slow down and contemplate the Trinitarian footprint of God that is present in each creature and in our fellow human beings.

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.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

One Person of the Trinity entered into the created cosmos, throwing in his lot with it, even to the cross. From the beginning of the world, but particularly through the incarnation, the mystery of Christ is at work in a hidden manner in the natural world as a whole, without thereby impinging on its autonomy. (99)

The Father is the ultimate source of everything, the loving and self-communicating foundation of all that exists. The Son, his reflection, through whom all things were created, united himself to this earth when he was formed in the womb of Mary. The Spirit, infinite bond of love, is intimately present at the very heart of the universe, inspiring and bringing new pathways. The world was created by the three Persons acting as a single divine principle, but each one of them performed this common work in accordance with his own personal property. Consequently, “when we contemplate with wonder the universe in all its grandeur and beauty, we must praise the whole Trinity”. (238)

Believing in one God who is trinitarian communion suggests that the Trinity has left its mark on all creation.... The reflection of the Trinity was there to be recognized in nature “when that book was open to man and our eyes had not yet become darkened”. The Franciscan saint [Bonaventure] teaches us that *each creature bears in itself a specifically Trinitarian structure*, so real that it could be readily contemplated if only the human gaze were not so partial, dark and fragile. (239)

The human person grows more, matures more and is sanctified more to the extent that he or she enters into relationships, going out from themselves to live in communion with God, with others and with all creatures. In this way, they make their own that trinitarian dynamism which God imprinted in them when they were created. Everything is interconnected, and this invites us to develop a spirituality of that global solidarity which flows from the mystery of the Trinity. (240)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That all people of good will join together in protecting and preserving earth, our common home, as a way of learning to "read reality in a Trinitarian key," let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: May God inspire us to contemplation of the Trinity in creation and to collaboration with others in actions that preserve the wonderful gift of creation that our loving God has given to us, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

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