

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B (31 January 2021)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Deuteronomy 18: Moses spoke to all the people, saying: Let us not again hear the voice of the Lord, our God, nor see this great fire any more, lest we die. [Referencing “the thunder and lightning, trumpet blast and mountain smoking ... which blazed to the very sky (Ex.20:18) ... in a dense black cloud from which the Lord spoke to the people”, at Mt. Horeb (Dt.4:11)]

Psalms 95: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

1 Corinthians 7: I should like you to be free of anxieties.

Mark 1: What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him.

† Comment for the day:

Wouldn't it be nice if today there was a global voice like that of Jesus who would speak with authority and cleanse our world of the unclean spirits that afflict our global environments? People all around the world are facing a killer virus, collapsed economies, hostile relationships, climate-induced famines and droughts, and even what Pope Francis calls the Third World War broken up into little pieces. The list can go on. We want to be free of all these anxieties, but we too often close our ears to the voice of God speaking loudly from various mountains of wisdom. We harden our hearts and minds, dismiss real problems as hoaxes, and keep going our own individual way so long as we are OK. Whatever the truth, we just can't be bothered.

Climate change gradually became a climate problem, then a climate emergency, and now a climate crisis. If we do not stand and work together to banish the spirits and sources of what is threatening the health of planet earth and its ability to sustain human and other life, our long-term future will be bleaker than 2020, especially for today's children as they grow older.

For years now, Pope Francis has spoken with authority to the disciples of Jesus and all people of good will about the necessity of hearing the cries of the poor and of the earth. Our Universe is the work of the Creator and our planet is the only known part of the Universe which we know sustains life. God created humans to share life and love. Jesus came that we might have life in abundance, but many don't. God continues to sustain creation and constantly pours forth love, the energy which enables life. But God has entrusted care of our created universe to us, starting with planet earth, our common home. It is up to us to work with God by dismissing our anxieties, opening our ears to scientific wisdom, accepting lifestyle adjustments, and softening our hearts enough to let the energy of our love serve the common good of all humankind. 2021 has barely begun. May we all help to make life on our common home better.

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:

106. We are the ones to lay our hands on things, attempting to extract everything possible from them while frequently ignoring or forgetting the reality in front of us. ... This has made it easy to accept the idea of infinite or unlimited growth, which proves so attractive to economists, financiers and experts in technology. It is based on the lie that there is an infinite supply of the earth's goods, and this leads to the planet being squeezed dry beyond every limit. It is the false notion that "an infinite quantity of energy and resources are available, that it is possible to renew them quickly, and that the negative effects of the exploitation of the natural order can be easily absorbed".

117. Once the human being declares independence from reality and behaves with absolute dominion, the very foundations of our life begin to crumble, for "instead of carrying out his role as a cooperator with God in the work of creation, man sets himself up in place of God and thus ends up provoking a rebellion on the part of nature".

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That with the help of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, we will do all we can to reduce and eliminate all the unclean spirits and elements of our lifestyle that are polluting our environment and provoking destructive climate change, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That we will each cooperate with God in the work of creation by caring for our common home in whatever ways we can, as individuals, families, and members of the whole human race, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com

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

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