

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B (June 20, 2021)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Job 1: The Lord addressed Job out of the storm and said: Who shut within doors the sea, when it burst forth from the womb; when I made the clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling bands?

2 Corinthians 5: [Christ] indeed died for all so that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised... So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.

Mark 4: [Jesus] woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!" The wind ceased and there was great calm. Then he asked them, "Why are you terrified? Do you not have faith?"

† Comments for the Day:

In the first reading, God speaks to Job from *within* the storm, thus showing Job the intimate relationship that exists between Creator and created, along with the place of humankind in the scheme of things. God's love sustains the entire world, and is the central axis holding all things in relationship. God asked only that humanity respect this arrangement. However, sinful pride led us to presume to take the place of God, refusing to acknowledge our limitations.

Such an attitude is the root cause of our social conflicts and of environmental destruction. Pope Francis offers Saint Francis as a model for the healing needed to mend this rupture. And the pope also notes that Saint Francis shows how inseparable is the bond between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.

In his earthly life, Jesus provided us with a way of acting that will allow us to restore our original relationship with God and one another: he died for all so that those who live might understand that they do not live for themselves, but for the sake of Jesus himself. Since Jesus gave his entire life for the sake of others, we are called to follow his example and give our lives for others and, in this context, for the world which God has created.

Saint Paul writes that whoever is in Jesus is a new creation; Pope Francis reminds us that an important part of this "newness" is a new and universal solidarity. This is undoubtedly a difficult task; in the gospel however, Jesus asks the disciples why they are afraid. Like them, all we need is faith.

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:

[Saint Francis] was a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself. He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace. (10)

Obstinate attitudes, even on the part of believers, can range from denial of the problem to indifference, nonchalant resignation or blind confidence in technical solutions. We require a new and universal solidarity. (14)

The harmony between the Creator, humanity and creation as a whole was disrupted by our presuming to take the place of God and refusing to acknowledge our creaturely limitations. This in turn distorted our mandate to "have dominion" over the earth (cf. *Gen* 1:28), to "till it and keep it" (*Gen* 2:15). As a result, the originally harmonious relationship between human beings and nature became conflictual. It is significant that the harmony which Saint Francis of Assisi experienced with all creatures was seen as a healing of that rupture. (66)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we might strive to live that inseparable bond between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society and interior peace, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That, inspired by the example of Jesus, we might live for the sake of others, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

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Webpage: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources?tid=14>

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