

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 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B (July 11, 2021)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Amos 7: “Off with you visionary, flee to the land of Judah!”...“I was a shepherd and a dresser of sycamores. The Lord took me from following the flock, and said to me, 'Go prophesy to my people Israel.'”

Ephesians 1: [God] has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing...in accord with the riches of his grace that he lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight, he has made known to us the mystery of his will ...

Mark 6: Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits...The twelve drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

† Comments for the Day:

Amos was called out of his ordinary life and work to preach God’s word. The disciples were likewise called out of their ordinary lives and work, and sent by Jesus to drive out the demons of their time.

We might think that we are too ordinary and unqualified to address the demons of our time: consumerism, exploitation of poor and indigenous people for profit, the “me first” attitude so prevalent in our culture, and the utilitarianism of God's creation. Yet we too are called to challenge the forces that conspire to distract us from our responsibility to the earth and the life it supports.

If we open ourselves to God’s gifts of wisdom, insight and spiritual blessings, we can receive the grace to become more knowledgeable about what is happening to our common home. We may then have the courage to challenge all that does violence to creation and to foster all that builds harmony, justice and peace.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

The Church does not simply state that other creatures are completely subordinated to the good of human beings, as if they have no worth in themselves and can be treated as we wish. . . "we can speak of the priority of *being* over that of *being useful*." (69)

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.

The word “creation” has a broader meaning than “nature,” for it has to do with God’s loving plan in which every creature has its own value and significance. Nature is usually seen as a system that can be studied, understood and controlled, whereas creation can only be understood as a gift from the outstretched hand of the Father of all, and as a reality illuminated by the love which calls us together into universal communion. (76)

When nature is viewed solely as a source of profit and gain, this has serious consequences for society. This vision of “might makes right” has engendered immense inequality, injustice and acts of violence against the majority of humanity, since resources end up upon the hands of the first comer or the most powerful: the winner takes all. Completely at odds with this model are the ideals of harmony, justice, fraternity and peace as proposed by Jesus. As he said to the powers of his own age: “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them. It shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant.” (82)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we open ourselves to being sent out by Jesus to confront the demons of social inequality, injustice, violence, and exploitation, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That we foster in ourselves a deep sense of the mystery of the universe and a deep respect for every creature, all of which are from God and are moving with us toward God, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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