

# 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 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B (July 18, 2021)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Jeremiah 23:** Woe to the shepherds who mislead and scatter the flock...I myself will gather the remnant...and bring them back to their meadow; there they shall increase and multiply.

**Ephesians 2:** He is our peace, he who made both one and broke down the dividing wall of enmity.

**Mark 6:** They went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place. People saw them leaving and many came to know about it. ...When Jesus disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved by pity for them.

#### † Comments for the Day:

Our God meant creation to be a pasture nurturing all forms of life. As a species we humans have forgotten that God charged us with the stewardship of creation, not the domination of it.

Geologists have named the era in which we live the Anthropocene because human activity has now become the most significant factor in the changes to our planet's climate and ecosystems.

We are not the owners of the earth, but stewards of it. The Creator, however, continues to work among us as a good shepherd. Christ lives among us. Moved by pity, he is determined to break down the walls that divide us, including our conflicting views about the best way to care for our common home.

We must do our part to expose leaders who act as hirelings, denying climate change for political gain. We must call out corporations that "greenwash," that is, releasing misleading advertisements that portray the company as using environmentally responsible production methods and making environmentally sustainable products. Our stewardship can include supporting political candidates, corporations, and organizations that have shown commitment to sustainability and climate action.

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

We are not God. The earth was here before us and it has been given to us...This implies a relationship of mutual responsibility between human beings and nature. Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to

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protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations... Thus God rejects every claim to absolute ownership. (67)

The Lord was able to invite others to be attentive to the beauty that there is in the world because he himself was in constant touch with nature, lending it an attention full of fondness and wonder. As he made his way throughout the land, he often stopped to contemplate the beauty sown by his Father, and invited his disciples to perceive a divine message in things. (97)

"Modernity has been marked by an excessive anthropocentrism which today, under another guise, continues to stand in the way of shared understanding and of any effort to strengthen social bonds. . . . our "dominion" over the universe should be understood more properly in the sense of responsible stewardship." (116)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That we rely on God's help to responsibly defend and develop that portion of creation entrusted to our care, let us pray to the Lord ...

**Option 2:** That those who recognize the sacredness of creation commit themselves to breaking the down the walls that divide us, 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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