



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B (July 25, 2021)

Homily Helps

2 Kings 4: A man came from Baalshalishah bringing Elisha, the man of God, twenty barley loaves...and fresh grain in the ear. Elisha said, "Give it to the people to eat."... And when they had eaten, there was some left over, as the Lord had said.

Ephesians 4: I...urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love.

John 6: [Jesus] said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for the large crowd to eat?"... [Andrew said] "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?"...Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and as much of the fish as they wanted..."Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted." So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets.

† Comments for the Day:

The fact that the miracle of the loaves and fishes is the only miracle story found in all four gospels points to its importance in Christian life. By his actions, Jesus is teaching us that he is the bread of life who can impart strength to those who believe in him. Jesus' example of sharing what was at hand with all that were present challenges us to see that all that is, even what we own, is something to be shared with others. There is plenty to go around: God has set an abundant table for the whole world. Jesus draws on humble food, the food of the poor, to teach us that the poor have dignity, and have the right to be sustained as much as the powerful.

Everything in creation is a gift of the Creator. Nature is precious, and it is for all. God is present in all things, and gives of Himself through His creation.

One way we can express our gratitude to God is to use the gift of food wisely. The secular press is beginning to publish articles about wasting food as damaging to the earth and to the poor. The Vatican's *Laudato Si'* Action Program was inaugurated in 2020. One of its seven goals is "the sober use of resources and energy, as well as less meat consumption and a plant-based diet." Another is, "emphasis on community action involvement and participatory action to care for creation at local, national and international levels."

The whole church is being invited to participate in a seven-year program to care for our common home. Joining this worldwide effort is a way to show gratitude to God who loves the poor and has given us this beautiful home.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

God has written a precious book, “whose letters are the multitude of created things present in the universe”...no creature is excluded from this manifestation of God: “From panoramic vistas to the tiniest living form, nature is a constant source of wonder and awe. It is also a continuing revelation of the divine.”...”To sense each creature singing the hymn of its existence is to live joyfully in God’s love and hope”...Paying attention to this manifestation, we learn to see ourselves in relation to all other creatures. (85)

The earth is essentially a shared inheritance whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone...“God gave the earth to the whole human race for the sustenance of all its members, *without excluding or favoring anyone.*” (93)

The natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone. If we make something our own, it is only to administer it for the good of all. (95)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we might understand that the least of things are manifestations of God’s goodness, meant to enrich us all., let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That we might answer Pope Francis’ call to the sober use of resources, including food, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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