

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle C (July 24, 2022)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Genesis 18: Far be it from you to do such a thing, to make the innocent die with the guilty, so that the innocent and the guilty would be treated alike.

Colossians 2: And even when you were dead in transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he brought you to life along with him.

Luke 11: Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray."

† Comments for the Day:

Today's readings focus on the importance of prayer. Abraham's intimacy with God allows him to first question God's intentions. Then, trusting in God's mercy, he coaxes God into sparing the inhabitants of Sodom, both the innocent and the guilty. St. Paul tells the Colossians that they are so intimate with Christ that they are raised with him from the dead. Luke's gospel tell us that Jesus spent whole nights in communion with his Father, praying for his disciples and his mission.

Theologian Walter Wink wrote in *Engaging the Powers*: "When we pray, we are not sending a letter to a celestial White House where it is sorted among piles of others. We are engaged in an act of co-creation ... if this is so, then intercession, far from being an escape from action, is a means of for focusing action and creating action."

And Pope Francis, for the 2019 Annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, states: "Every Christian man and woman, every member of the human family, can act as a thin, yet unique and indispensable thread in weaving a *network of life* that embraces everyone. May we feel challenged to assume, with care and commitment, our responsibility for the care of creation. May God "the lover of life" grant us the courage to do good without waiting for someone else to begin, or until it is too late."

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

Inner peace is closely related to care for ecology and for the common good ... Many people today sense a profound imbalance which drives them to frenetic activity and makes them feel busy, in a constant hurry which in turn leads them to ride rough-shod over everything around

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them. This too affects how they treat the environment. An integral ecology includes taking time to recover a serene harmony with creation. (225)

Care for nature is part of a lifestyle which includes the capacity for living together and communion. Jesus reminds that we have God as our common Father and that this makes us brothers and sisters. Fraternal love can only be gratuitous; it can never be a means of repaying others for what they have done or will do for us. That is why it is possible to love our enemies. This same gratuitousness inspires us to love and accept the wind, the sun and the clouds even though we cannot control them. In this sense, we can speak of a “universal fraternity”. (228)

We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it. We have had enough of immorality and the mockery of ethics, goodness, faith and honesty [that affect] the growth of a genuine culture of care for the environment. (229)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we might embrace our vocation to be channels of God’s love for all creatures of the earth, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That we might grow in our awareness of working for the common good, which includes our life-sustaining environment, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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