

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Helps and Petitions for the 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle C (July 31, 2022)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Ecclesiastes 1-2:** Says Qoheleth, vanity of vanities! All things are vanity! ... For what profit comes to man from all the toil and anxiety of heart with which he has labored under the sun? All his days sorrow and grief are his occupation; even at night his mind is not at rest.

**Colossians 3:** Stop lying to one another, since you have taken off the old self with its practices and have put on a new self.

**Luke 12:** Thus will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves but are not rich in what matters to God.

#### † Comments for the Day:

In our first reading today the teacher Qoheleth, whose name is a Hebrew word meaning “one who speaks to an assembly,” asserts that all human wisdom is empty and pointless. Neither work nor pleasure has any meaning. Only God can sort things out.

Paul maintains that the meaning of our lives comes from being in Christ, and that we all can put on new selves in the image of God. In this way we are united with God, each other and all of creation.

Jesus’ parable in Luke’s gospel echoes Qoheleth in condemning the hoarding of riches. Instead being grateful for the abundant harvest the man makes plans to keep the harvest, a gift from God, for himself.

Unfortunately, the culture in which we live promotes lifestyles of rivalry for possessions, the biggest and best houses, cars, wardrobes, vacations. We often tend to idolize billionaires and celebrities. These things do not promote happiness and a meaningful life. And they are also degrading our planet, as well.

Today’s scripture passages offer us a meditation: What are we hoarding or wasting that we might share with others? How can we show gratitude for the blessings in our lives by wanting less, and caring for our common home?

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:

Those who are committed to defending human dignity can find in the Christian faith the deepest reasons for this commitment. How wonderful is the certainty that each human life is not adrift in hopeless chaos, in a world ruled by pure chance or endlessly recurring cycles! (65)

An awareness of the gravity of today's cultural and ecological crisis must be translated into new habits. Many people know that our current progress and the mere amassing of things and pleasures are not enough to give meaning and joy to the human heart, yet they feel unable to give up what the market sets before them. In those countries that should be making the greatest changes in consumer habits, young people...have grown up in a milieu of extreme consumerism and affluence which makes difficult to develop other habits. We are faced with an educational challenge. (209)

Christian spirituality proposes a growth marked by moderation and the capacity to be happy with little. It is a return to that simplicity which allows us to stop and appreciate the small things, to be grateful for the opportunities which life affords us, to be spiritually detached from what we possess, and not to succumb to sadness for what we lack. This implies avoiding the dynamic of dominion and the mere accumulation of pleasures. (222)

Those who enjoy more and live better each moment are those who have given up dipping here and there, always on the lookout for what they do not have. They experience what it means to appreciate each person and each thing . . . Happiness means knowing how to limit some needs which only diminish us, and being open to many different possibilities which life can offer. (223)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That we commit ourselves to defend human life and dignity by protecting the environment on which all life depends, let us pray to the Lord...

**Option 2:** That our culture will move beyond consumerism and greed, recognizing that what we want isn't necessarily what we need, 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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