

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the 1st Sunday of Lent, Cycle B (21 February 2021)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Genesis 9: See, I am now establishing a covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you...so that the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings.

1 Peter 3: Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit...This prefigured baptism, which saves you now. It is not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a clear conscience.

Mark 1: [A]nd he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts...Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God...Repent and believe in the gospel.

† Comment for the day:

The theme of water runs through our first two scripture readings today. We hear of the power of water both to destroy and to give new life. The great flood described in Genesis was a punishment for sin, but it also gave humanity a new start. Saint Paul writes that the flood of Noah's time foreshadowed our baptism. Baptism gives us a new start because we no longer live our small, individual lives; we live larger lives as part of the Body of Christ. It is imperative that we reflect on the responsibility that comes with our baptism to nurture the Body of Christ. How might we address the huge issues that affect so many of our sisters and brothers: xenophobia, racism, economic injustice, environmental degradation, and so many others?

Furthermore, God makes a covenant not only with Noah and his family, but with all of humanity as well. Furthermore, God leaves a reminder of the covenant promise that He will never again send a flood to destroy us. Yet flooding continues to be a problem in many places of the world, and human activity plays a significant part in rising ocean levels and the devastation and misery that follow it. Pope Francis pleads for a greater recognition of the harm that misplaced faith in technology and consumer goods does to the environment and all living things.

Immediately after his baptism by John, Jesus goes out to the desert and stays among the creatures that live there. The desert is a place of temptation, but it is also a place to loosen one's hold on the superficial clutter of life. It is a place of transformation. Jesus emerges from the desert and begins to preach his message to all.

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.

Pope Francis urges us to be converted ecologically, so that we might take part in the great work of renewing humanity and the earth.

† **Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:**

In talking with his disciples, Jesus would invite them to recognize the paternal relationship that God has with all his creatures. (#96)

It would hardly be helpful to describe symptoms without acknowledging the human origins of the ecological crisis. A certain way of understanding human life and activity has gone awry, to the serious detriment of the world around us. (#101)

Yet we can once more broaden our vision...An authentic humanity calling for a new synthesis seems to dwell in the midst of our technological culture, almost unnoticed, like a mist seeping gently beneath a closed door. (#112)

Water poured over the body of a child in baptism is a sign of new life. Encountering God does not mean fleeing from the world or turning our back on nature. (#235)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That faith in God's word spoken at our baptism and hope in God's mercy will lead us to realize our responsibility to care for the earth and its peoples, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That our observance of Lent will inspire us to greater simplicity of life and less reliance on superficial consumer goods, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com

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

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