

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 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B (September 19, 2021)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Psalm 54: The Lord sustains my life. Freely will I offer you sacrifice; I will praise your name, O Lord, for its goodness.

James 3: Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice.

Mark 9: Jesus sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to be first, that one shall be the last of all and the servant of all."

† Comments for the Day:

Is Greta Thunberg obnoxious to us because she has been making such a fuss about climate change for years now? Does her persistent stance against the way we and industrial enterprises are polluting and destroying our global environment, and heating up our common home, bother us? Or rather, is she a prophet to whom we should listen, despite her youth?

Greta does seem to be doing more to care for creation than most adults, including those of us who look to the Lord to sustain us. Do we sacrifice on behalf of creation by, for example, reducing our consumption of fuel and other resources, or products that pollute our environment? Are those of us who live in the land of wealth and abundance, i.e., compared to what most of humanity has, protective of what we have and determined to keep it that way?

From the beginning of Christianity, this has been an issue. More than 1900 years ago, St. James wrote the letter we read this Sunday. It raised the flag back then that selfish ambition provokes "foul" behavior and social disorder within the human family.

Jesus made it a point to sit the Twelve down to help them get their priorities in order. Perhaps we need to sit down with Jesus and consider what Greta is talking about. In this world that we have so mistreated, we shouldn't want to be at the top, nor fear being at the bottom, but rather eager to be servants to others – even willing to be among the last.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

We fail to see that some are mired in desperate and degrading poverty, with no way out, while others have not the faintest idea of what to do with their possessions, vainly showing off their supposed superiority and leaving behind them so much waste which, if it were the case everywhere, would destroy the planet. (90)

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.

A consumerist vision of human beings encouraged by the mechanisms of today's globalized economy has a leveling effect on cultures, diminishing the immense variety which is the heritage of all humanity. (144)

The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change has so stretched the planet's capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes such as those even now periodically appearing in different areas of the world. The effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by our decisive action, here and now. (161)

Disinterested concern for others, and the rejection of every form of self-centeredness and self-absorption, are essential if we truly wish to care for our brothers and sisters and for the natural environment. These attitudes also attune us to the moral imperative of assessing the impact of our every action and personal decision on the world around us. (208)

"We must not think that these efforts are not going to change the world. They benefit society, often unbeknown to us, for they call forth a goodness which, albeit unseen, inevitably tends to spread." (212)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we might have the wisdom and faith needed to reduce our consumerism and educate our children to appreciate and care for creation, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That we will choose to be care for the well-being of all, especially of children and future generations, by defending clean air, clean water, and a healthy climate, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

Visit our webpage and sign up to receive these resources delivered to your email inbox each month.