

# 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 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B (September 26, 2021)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Numbers 11:** The LORD bestowed [the spirit through Moses] on the seventy elders; and as the spirit came to rest on them, they prophesied. Now two men ... had been on the list, but had not gone out to the tent; yet the spirit came to rest on them also, and they prophesied in the camp. So, when a young man quickly told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp," Joshua ... said, "Moses, my lord, stop them." But Moses answered him, "Would that all the people of the LORD were prophets! Would that the LORD might bestow his spirit on them all."

**James:** Come now, you rich, weep and wail over your impending miseries. Your wealth has rotted away, ... our gold and silver have corroded and that corrosion will be a testimony against you.

**Mark 9:** "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your names, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." Jesus replied, "Whoever is not against us is for us. Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ ... will surely not lose their reward."

#### † Comments for the Day:

What does it mean to "prophesy"? It doesn't mean predicting the future. It means raising one's voice about what one sees going on that deserves challenge. Prophesying is "speaking truth to power," confronting and challenging individuals and groups who don't see, or see but don't care.

Who gets to prophesy? We all do, everyone who has a sense of what's wrong and who has the courage to speak up for right. One doesn't need to be specially chosen as when Moses "ordained" many at one time. Moses welcomed outliers like Eldad and Medad and said "would that all the people of God were prophets," speaker-uppers moved by the Spirit.

Jesus took the same stand as Moses when he commissioned disciples to go out and challenge demons. His inner circle complained that someone else was doing the same thing. Instead of shutting them down, Jesus welcomed the others who were speaking up and doing what they could to make things better for others.

It's pretty clear nowadays that lots of different factors are messing up the environment in which we all live. We need to speak up and drive out today's "demons." A lot of what is damaging the

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air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat is pollution that kills. We need to speak up with St. James. Instead of exploiting the resources of our planet to generate wealth that eventually "rots away," we need to call-out the corrosion of life on this planet. God needs more prophets – us, not bystanders.

### † **Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:**

Is it realistic to hope that those who are obsessed with maximizing profits will stop to reflect on the environmental damage which they will leave behind for future generations? Where profits alone count, there can be no thinking about the rhythms of nature, its phases of decay and regeneration, or the complexity of ecosystems which may be gravely upset by human intervention. (190)

While some are concerned only with financial gain, and others with holding on to or increasing their power, what we are left with are conflicts or spurious agreements where the last thing either party is concerned about is caring for the environment and protecting those who are most vulnerable. (198)

A change in lifestyle could bring healthy pressure to bear on those who wield political, economic and social power. This is what consumer movements accomplish by boycotting certain products. They prove successful in changing the way businesses operate, forcing them to consider their environmental footprint and their patterns of production. When social pressure affects their earnings, businesses clearly have to find ways to produce differently. (206)

Christian spirituality proposes an alternate understanding of the quality of life, and encourages a prophetic and contemplative lifestyle, one capable of deep enjoyment free of obsession with consumption. We need to take up an ancient lesson, ... the conviction that "Less is more." (222)

## Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That our community and our nation will have the courage to take responsibility for the needs of the earth and its people beyond our own interests, let us pray to the Lord ...

**Option 2:** That we will respect and support all who are raising their voices and taking the needed steps to improve the ability of God's creation to sustain all life, 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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