

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Helps and Petitions for the 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B (October 3, 2021), Highlighting the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi (October 4)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Genesis 2:** The Lord God said: it is not good for man to be alone.

**Psalm 128:** Blessed are you who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways! For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork...

**Alleluia (1 John 4):** If we love one another, God remains in us and his love is brought to perfection in us.

**Mark 10:** Whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.

#### † Comments for the Day:

The first reading from Genesis reminds us that we are not created by God to be alone. Rather, we are invited to relationship: with God, with one another, with all of God's creatures, and with the world around us.

This week we celebrate the Feast of Saint Francis (October 4). Like him, we are called to gaze upon the world with the eyes of a child, with wonder and respect and love. And we are challenged to accept the Kingdom of God with these same attitudes. The Kingdom speaks of justice, truth, peace and love; it is a place of interdependence where God expects us to love and care for one another, where we need to promote the common good.

Now, Pope Francis calls on all people of good will to dedicate themselves to the common good, to seek development that makes the world better and to work for an integrally higher quality of life. Believers must strive to live in a way consonant with their faith and not to contradict it by their actions. Pope Francis is insistent that we recognize how Saint Francis shows us just how inseparable is the bond between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.

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

Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically.... He shows us just how inseparable is the bond between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace. (10)

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.

[Saint Francis'] response to the world around him was so much more than intellectual appreciation or economic calculus, for to him each and every creature was a sister united to him by bonds of affection. . . . The poverty and austerity of Saint Francis were no mere veneer of asceticism, but something much more radical: a refusal to turn reality into an object simply to be used and controlled. (11)

The creation accounts in the book of Genesis . . . suggest that human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbor and with the earth itself. According to the Bible, these three vital relationships have been broken, both outwardly and within us. This rupture is sin [and includes] attacks on nature. (66)

Everything is interconnected, and that genuine care for our own lives and our relationships with nature is inseparable from fraternity, justice and faithfulness to others. (70)

Some committed and prayerful Christians . . . ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an 'ecological conversion,' whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. (217)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That in the spirit of Saint Francis we learn to gaze on the world around us with love and respect, and to treat all people as our sisters and brothers, let us pray to the Lord....

**Option 2:** That leaders of the world, church and civil, work together to understand and to address the crises afflicting our planet, 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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