

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 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B (October 10, 2021)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Wisdom 7: I prayed, and prudence was given me; I pleaded, and the spirit of wisdom came to me.

Psalms 90: Prosper the work of our hands for us! Prosper the work of our hands!

Hebrews 4: Indeed the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow; and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart.

Mark 10: Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.

† Comments for the Day:

Today's readings, along with the insistent message of Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'*, are an invitation to pause and take stock of who we are, what we believe, and how we put into practice our beliefs. The first reading is a request by the author to be granted prudence and wisdom, gifts counted more important than all else. Pope Francis notes how we can and need to use these gifts to find intelligent ways to care for our fragile home, to work together with everyone to address the environmental crisis we face.

The responsorial psalm begs God to prosper the work of our hands. The presumption is that we are using our talent and energy to promote the common good of all people and all God's creatures. It is good to "get our hands dirty" with productive work that provides for the sustenance and well being of everyone and everything. In *Laudato Si'* we are reminded that God's Spirit continually provides us with possibilities which allow new things to emerge, even in the midst of catastrophe and destruction.

In his letter to the Hebrews, Saint Paul notes that God's word is living and effective, sharper than a two-edged sword. Do we allow that word to penetrate our thoughts and our lives? How, for example, do we hear the challenge of Jesus to the man in the gospel story? While we may not choose to give away all that we own, how do we use our own possessions for the benefit of others? The Pope says that we need to be challenged to live in a way consistent with our faith, that it should not be contradicted by our actions. He calls us to embark on a path of dialogue, which demands patience, self-discipline and generosity. He invites us to keep in mind that

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“realities are greater than ideas”. In other words, he appears to be saying that we need to put our money where our mouth is!

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

A fragile world, entrusted by God to human care, challenges us to devise intelligent ways of directing, developing and limiting our power. (78)

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)

Believers themselves must constantly feel challenged to live in a way consonant with their faith and not to contradict it by their actions. (200)

The gravity of the ecological crisis demands that we all look to the common good, embarking on a path of dialogue which requires patience, self-discipline and generosity, always keeping in mind that “realities are greater than ideas”. (201)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we might be inspired by the lives of people like Francis of Assisi and Theresa of Calcutta, who were willing to sacrifice their own comfort for the good of others, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That the word of God might penetrate into the very depths of our beings, providing us with wisdom to understand environmental crises like climate change, and courage to take action to address them, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

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

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