

# 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 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B (October 17, 2021)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Isaiah 53:** Because of his affliction he shall see the light in the fullness of days; through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear.

**Hebrews 4:** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin.

**Mark 10:** Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all.

#### † Comments for the Day:

The theme that runs through the readings for this weekend is that, despite difficulties, we are invited by our faith to work for the “justification” of those around us. Our high priest is able to sympathize with us because he too faced tests in his ministry. Yet he remained faithful to his mission to the end, that of proclaiming and establishing the kingdom of God in our midst. The attitude that we are called to imitate is that of a servant, someone who is willing to serve and not be concerned with position or power.

In *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis repeatedly invites us and all people to the process of dialogue in order to address the problems that we face in our world today, especially those of ecological destruction and increasing poverty. The pope is concerned with the well-being of all God's creatures, and he calls for a spirit of solidarity and generosity to work for the common good. No person or nation should be concerned with only their individual well-being. Rather, all are convoked to work together for the good of all.

The gravity of environmental crises like climate change demands such a response from everyone. Catastrophic events are increasing in the U.S. and throughout the world, including wildfires, floods, drought, and famine. These highlight the urgency of attending to the call of Pope Francis for us to work together to seek solutions to our common problems of our common home.

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

I urgently appeal . . . for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all. . . . Obstructionist attitudes, even on

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the part of believers, can range from denial of the problem to indifference, nonchalant resignation or blind confidence in technical solutions. We require a new and universal solidarity. (14)

The Church does not presume to settle scientific questions or to replace politics. But I am concerned to encourage an honest and open debate so that particular interests or ideologies will not prejudice the common good. (188)

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)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That, like Jesus, we might accept the call to be servants, making ourselves available to all our sisters and brothers, and to all of God's creation, let us pray to the Lord....

**Option 2:** That we might cultivate the virtues of patience, self-discipline and generosity, so as to courageously address the environmental and social crises we are facing, 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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