

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

Homily Resources and Petitions for the

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B (4 November 2018)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Deuteronomy 6

Hear then, Israel, and be careful to observe them, that you may grow and prosper the more.

Psalms 18

I love you, O LORD, my strength, O LORD, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer.

Hebrews 7

Jesus, because he remains forever, has a priesthood that does not pass away.

Mark 12

When Jesus saw that he (one of the scribes) answered with understanding, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

† Comment for the day:

In today's first reading, Moses summons the Chosen People to hear and to listen. Yet, he recognizes how difficult that is. The Israelites were expected to cultivate that listening disposition as individuals and as community. Having one's inner ear attuned to God was central to their

efforts to be obedient to God and to being able to grow and prosper. In fact, the root of our English word for obedience comes from Latin obedire: “listen, hear.”

In the Gospel, Jesus praises one of the scribes for his ability to listen and to understand that at the core of the Hebrew Law are found the love of God and one of one’s neighbor. Being able to hear at the deeper, God’s level, one had to be humble and fearlessly open to the holy, silent Mystery of God. To hear God also entails one’s willingness to listen to the signs of the times, to the cries of the poor and to the groans of God’s creation that is suffering under the heavy boot of hyper consumerism. Those cries and groans can pierce our hearts with compassion and lead us to into the arms of the crucified Love. That encounter can then move us to examine our lifestyle in light of the current environmental degradation and express our love for God through a more Gospel-informed civic and political engagement

† Passages from Laudato Si’ to note:

A change in lifestyle could bring healthy pressure to bear on those who wield political, economic and social power... Purchasing is always a moral – and not simply economic – act”. Today, in a word, “the issue of environmental degradation challenges us to examine our lifestyle” (#206)

Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world... In this framework, along with the importance of little everyday gestures, social love moves us to devise larger strategies to halt environmental degradation and to encourage a “culture of care” which permeates all of society. When we feel that God is calling us to intervene with others in these social dynamics, we should realize that this too is part of our spirituality, which is an exercise of charity and, as such, matures and sanctifies us. (#231)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That people of faith may realize that climate justice is one of the most fundamental pro-life issues and that the choices they make, especially at the voting booths, will impact their children and countless generations into the future, we pray to the Lord...

Option 2: For our fellow citizens exercising their duty to cast their vote in the mid-term election, may their choices be informed by their concerns for justice, God’s preferential option for the poor, and the moral imperative to protect our common home , we pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org

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

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