

# 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (January 22, 2023)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Isaiah 8:** There is no gloom where but now there was distress. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.... For the yoke that burdened them, and the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster, you have smashed.

**Psalms 27:** The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?... I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord with courage.

**1 Corinthians 1:** I urge you, brothers and sisters... that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose.

**Matthew 4:** Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers.... He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.

#### † Comments for the Day:

Today's scripture readings invite us to consider the "bigger picture," a vision that can sustain and nurture us and all our fellow creatures in difficult situations. The prophet Isaiah reflects on those in the northern kingdom of Israel who suffered the anguish of invasion and separation. Their situation was dire, but God broke the yoke of their oppressor and turned a great light on the people.

Paul then challenges his Corinthian readers to live according to the vision of life in Christ Jesus he offered them, a vision that encouraged coming together, to dispel division and to live in agreement. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus entered the daily life of his future disciples and asked them to follow him and become "fishers of men" – in short, apostles and missionaries. His vision helped fishermen understand what was needed to become builders of the kingdom that ultimately changed their world – and ours.

Now Jesus is challenging us. All these scriptures apply to each of us in our world today. He continues to be present and calls us to follow him. We are to do now what his apostles did then.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis promotes a vision that helps to address the crises that we all face in today's world. He teaches that consumerism has clouded our vision, closing us in on ourselves, causing us to focus tightly on our own needs and wants. In contrast, he emphasizes that every-

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thing is interconnected – all of us, all the peoples of the world, all elements and living things on our planet. He underlines the need for us to promote the common good, to undertake all that is needed to bring all living things together to make things better.

A paradigm based solely on economics and self-interest will not provide what is necessary to deal with our current and continuing global plight. Rather, we must employ the resources available from all fields of knowledge, science, agriculture, medicine, and other fields to help create a more integral and integrating vision for us and for all of God's creation.

Are we on that track? Are we seeing the light? Are we fearful or hopeful, complacent or courageous? Are we stuck in our little boats with our nets, or are we working with others in our community to serve the common good? Are we polarized, competitive, and divided, looking out mainly for ourselves? Or are we determined to collaborate with others to make the world a better place?

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

We urgently need a humanism capable of bringing together the different fields of knowledge, including economics, in the service of a more integral and integrating vision. (141)

A consumerist vision of human beings, encouraged by the mechanisms of today's globalized economy, has a levelling effect on cultures, diminishing the immense variety which is the heritage of all humanity. (144)

An integral ecology is inseparable from the notion of the common good, a central and unifying principle of social ethics. (156)

Self-improvement on the part of individuals will not by itself remedy the extremely complex situation facing our world today. Isolated individuals can lose their ability and freedom to escape the utilitarian mindset, and end up prey to an unethical consumerism bereft of social or ecological awareness. Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds. (219)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That we will raise our eyes and hearts above personal wants to focus on God's vision, compelling us to defend life and protect the earth, our common home, let us pray to the Lord...

**Option 2:** That our lives might be a light with all those searching for ways to build up God's kingdom in today's broken world, 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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