

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Resources and Petitions for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle C (30 January 2022)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture passages to note:

**Jeremiah 1:5, 19:** Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you.... They will fight against you but not prevail over you, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.

**Psalms 71:3,4:** Be my rock of refuge, a stronghold to give me safety, for you are my rock and my fortress. O my God, rescue me from the hand of the wicked.

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:1, 13:** If I speak in human and angelic tongues, but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.... So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

**Luke 4:24, 28:** And he said, "Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place."... When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury.

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

[Saint John Paul II] maintained, "it is not in accord with God's plan that this gift be used in such a way that its benefits favor only a few". This calls into serious question the unjust habits of a part of humanity. (#93)

The rich and the poor have equal dignity, for "the Lord is the maker of them all" (*Prov 22:2*). "He himself made both small and great". (*Wis 6:7*) ... This has practical consequences, such as those pointed out by the bishops of Paraguay: "Every *campesino* has a natural right to possess a reasonable allotment of land where he can establish his home, work for subsistence of his family and a secure life". (#94)

The natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone. (#95)

Our insistence that each human being is an image of God should not make us overlook the fact that each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. (#84)

#### † Comment for the day:

Jesus challenged the people of Nazareth by observing that a prophet is never accepted in his own hometown. Jeremiah, too, had to gird himself against the rejection of his contemporaries. Nonethe-

less, both Jeremiah and Jesus remained steadfast because they knew they were doing God's will and announced his message.

In our own day, such people as Martin Luther King and Rachel Carson spoke words that others in society found hard to accept. In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis also offers a message of challenge and hope in an era where the din of capitalism, profit, and individualism tends to drown out all else.

Today it is primarily young people, together with the poor and marginalized of our planet, who are raising prophetic voices. They see what is happening in the world – their world. They are concerned about both their own generation and those to come. At the COP26 conference in Glasgow last November, they loudly demanded climate action. While noble responses were voiced, commitment and real action have not followed. Mother Earth is destined to suffer for many more years ... and we with her. Unless ....

We look to all these examples as we ponder the vocation God has for each of us. In today's world, a Christian must remain not only steadfast but ready to be an agent of positive change. If it is true that prophets are not accepted in their own native places, do we sometimes reject those who bring God's word of challenge to us? In today's world, Pope Francis sounds a prophetic voice in *Laudato Si'*, his encyclical on care for earth, our common home. Read it. Act on it. Make a difference. Will we, like those who rejected the prophets and Jesus himself, dismiss those who boldly challenge us today?

#### † Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That we may take comfort and strength from knowing that, despite our lack of care for God's creation, His love never ends, let us pray to the Lord...

**Option 2:** That we may respond to the prophets among us who challenge us to practice justice for the poor and for our common home, planet earth, 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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