

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B (14 February 2021)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture passages to note:

**Responsorial Psalm:** I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

**1 Corinthians:** Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved.

**Mark 1:** A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I will do it. Be made clean."

#### † Comment for the day:

The refrain from today's responsorial psalm provides us with a stance that can help us in times like ours, full of uncertainty and pain: "I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation." Like the man in the Gospel, who lived daily the consequences of his leprosy, each of us faces difficulties in our day-to-day lives. But the man had faith and cried out to Jesus: "If you wish, you can make me clean." Shockingly, Jesus touched him, risking ritual uncleanness and contamination, and cured him. But the personal healing was not enough, so Jesus sent the man to the authorities so that he could be reintegrated into the midst of the society from which he had been banned.

In *Laudato Si'* and again, more recently, in *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis makes an impassioned plea for universal fraternity. He asks everyone to have the courage of Jesus to reach out to all our sisters and brothers, along with earth – "our common home." He reminds us repeatedly that everything is interconnected, and that we live in relationship with one another and with nature. Awareness of this relationship is inseparable from the notion of the common good, which underscores the respect due to every human person and to environment itself, a gift of God to all of us.

In his First Letter to the Corinthians, Paul admonishes his readers not to give offense, but rather to do everything so as to please others, not seeking our own benefit but that of the many. In the gospel, Jesus literally reaches out to the leper. Today, we are invited to read the signs of the times and to recognize those who are calling out for help today: those marginalized from society,

This resource is provided by Catholic Climate Covenant in collaboration with the Integral Faith Team, a group of male and female religious, priests, and lay people dedicated to serving the Church.

those suffering racial injustice, those affected by COVID, and so many others who face debilitating difficulties in their lives.

Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of our current pope. In his process of conversion, the saint, like Jesus in today's Gospel, was confronted with a leper. He decided to overcome his own revulsion, to embrace the leper, and then to work to address the problems the lepers and so many others excluded by the society of his day. This can serve as a model for us as we work to en flesh the Gospel message in our lives.

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

It cannot be emphasized enough how everything is interconnected. (#138)

When we speak of the “environment”, what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and the society which lives in it. (#139)

An integral ecology is inseparable from the notion of the common good, a central and unifying principle of social ethics...Underlying the principle of the common good is respect for the human person as such... (#156, 157)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That in the spirit of Pope Francis we might all strive to promote the common good of our sisters and brothers, and work to protect our common home, let us pray to the Lord....

**Option 2:** That we recognize the interconnectedness of all peoples and nations, and find ways to foster those policies and actions that will promote the good of all, let us pray to the Lord...

### Further Resources

Feedback: [IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com](mailto:IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com)

Webpage: [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help)

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