

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 7th Sunday of Easter, Cycle B (May 16, 2021)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Acts 1: You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this apostolic ministry from which Judas turned away to go to his own place. ... The lot fell upon Matthias.

1 John 4: Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.

John 17: Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed saying: "Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are one. ... As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world.

† Comments for the Day:

There is a tendency in our individualistic culture to turn away from the larger community and go our own way, to our own place. So long as our place is good for us, we tend to settle in and do nothing further that might make the world in which we live good for others, too. That includes paying attention to our environment. Through baptism, we, like Matthias, are called out to serve the community. As Christians, we are chosen!

While we think of the Lord's throne as set in heaven, Jesus is the Son of God leaving his place at the throne and coming to earth to be among us. He comes to save us, to make life better for us, to overcome the self-centeredness that afflicts so many of our human race. The Word became flesh to dwell among us and bring us life in abundance. As God loves us, we are to love ourselves *and* others. We are to be part of the Body of Christ to which care for our planet, and the flourishing of life on earth, has been entrusted.

Jesus lived among us because he was sent into our world. He in turn sends us into the world, at a time when the very existence of humanity is being threatened by climate change. He came to be one of us so we could become one with others, as the Trinity is one. Taking care of creation, and being part of the flowing river of love intended to reach all, is our responsibility. There are too many Judases who care only about themselves and so go their own self-centered way. We, like Matthias, are among those chosen to carry on Jesus' work.

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.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

The current global situation engenders a feeling of instability and uncertainty, which in turn becomes “a seedbed for collective selfishness”. When people become self-centered and self-enclosed, their greed increases. The emptier a person’s heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume. It becomes almost impossible to accept the limits imposed by reality. In this horizon, a genuine sense of the common good also disappears. (204)

Disinterested concern for others, and the rejection of every form of self-centeredness and self-absorption, are essential if we truly wish to care for our brothers and sisters and for the natural environment. These attitudes also attune us to the moral imperative of assessing the impact of our every action and personal decision on the world around us. If we can overcome individualism, we will truly be able to develop a different lifestyle and bring about significant changes in society. (208)

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 all human beings who share life with one another on this planet will see themselves as part of God’s one human family responsible for caring for our common home, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That our appreciation to the Creator in giving us a common home will compel us to love one another and to care for Mother Earth, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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