

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the Feast of the Annunciation, Cycle B (March 25, 2021)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Isaiah 7:** Ask for a sign from the Lord, your God

**Psalms 40:** To do your will, O God, is my delight, and your law is within my heart”

**Hebrews 10:** Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me.

**Luke 1:** Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

#### † Comments for the Day:

Ahaz the king of Israel was terrified. The strong kingdoms of Judea and Edam had made a pact to attack Israel who was poor and weak. The prophet Isaiah tries to convince Ahaz that God is on his side and advises him to ask God for a sign as confirmation of this. Ahaz arrogantly refuses to humble himself by asking for God’s assurance and comfort, but God gives him a sign anyway: a child will be born in impossible circumstances, a human child who will be God in our midst.

Mary’s reply to God’s messenger is a contrast to the king’s. Gabriel tells her that she will be the bearer of God with us. Mary is not passive; she asks a question, listens to Gabriel’s message and assents to God’s plan for humankind with her whole heart. Thus God, the creator of the earth, takes on a human body made of elements of the earth. For the past 200 years or so, much of humankind has lost respect for the earth. Instead of seeing the earth as the gift of God, many individuals and corporations only regard the land, the water, and wildlife as resources to monetize. Rising sea levels, river beds choked with debris, and rapid disappearance of seafood from our plastic-filled oceans are signs of the damage humankind has inflicted on our planet – the planet that Jesus walked as he brought the good news that God is with us.

Today, corporations are making pro-environmental commercials and announcements about their environmentally responsible products. Some of this is “greenwashing,” advertising that exaggerates the sustainability of their products, but even this is a sign that the tide of public opinion is turning. The decision of the major oil corporations not to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is surely based on market forecasts, but it is a step toward a world in which children, like the child of Mary, can flourish in a beautiful, safe and healthful world.

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:**

Modern anthropocentrism has paradoxically ending up prizing technical thought over reality . . . The intrinsic dignity of the world is thus compromised. When human beings fail to find their true place in the world, they misunderstand themselves and end up acting against themselves: “Not only has God given the earth to man, who must use it with respect for the original good purpose for which it was given, but man too is God’s gift to man. He must therefore respect the natural and moral structure with which he has been endowed”. (115)

When we ask ourselves what kind of world we want to leave behind, we think in the first place of its general direction, its meaning and its values. Unless we struggle with these deeper issues, I do not believe that our concern for ecology will produce significant results . . . what is at stake is our own dignity. Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations, first and foremost, up to us. The issue is one which dramatically affects us, for it has to do with the ultimate meaning of our earthly sojourn. (160)

### **Related Prayers of the Faithful**

**Option 1:** That we might have the courage to answer Pope Francis’s message to heal our common home, let us pray to the Lord...

**Option 2:** That our children and future generation are able to grow up on an earth that is green, fertile healthful let us pray to the Lord...

### **Further Resources**

**Feedback:** [info@catholicclimatecovenant.org](mailto:info@catholicclimatecovenant.org)

**Webpage:** <http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help>

*Visit our webpage and sign up to receive these resources delivered to your email inbox each month.*