

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the Feast of the Holy Family, Cycle C (December 26, 2021)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

1 Samuel 1: Once the child is weaned, I will take him to appear before the Lord and to remain there forever.

Psalms 84: Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

1 John 3: Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence from God to receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

Luke 2: And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

† Comments for the Day:

A common theme in most Christmas songs is being home for the holidays, albeit an idealized version of "home": where the heart is, where family and friends gather, and where one can find the warmth and comfort of close intimacy and safety. A loving home is indeed the place of sanctuary, where we find the peace and support we need from our family; a place we return to later in life to revive ourselves and seek a bit of pampering.

Hannah knew that Samuel, the child she so longed for, belonged in the temple of the Lord where he would be consecrated to the service of God for all his days. He would remain in the temple which would become his home, and where he would grow in wisdom and age and favor. Mary and Joseph found the twelve-year-old Jesus in the temple of the Lord after searching for three long and arduous days. But this young Jesus explained to them that the temple is where he belonged, where he found his purpose and his peace.

While the concept of a warm and loving home brings great comfort to some, it conversely shakes others into a state of fear and trauma. Sadly, for some of us, the experience of family and home brings only sad and, in some cases, horrifying memories due to encounters involving abuse, neglect, indifference, and abandonment. We can say the same about our common home, our planet earth. Through abuse and exploitation we have deeply wounded this temple of the Lord, consequently the home provided for us by God suffers greatly.

The grace of this season, however, has the power to turn us around and move our hearts towards a transformation of spirit whereby, through the power of the Eucharist, we can allow our hearts to move away from violence and turn toward reconciliation and hope. This transformation is

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possible only if we support each other in the process and allow for true honesty and love. Instead of seeing other human beings and the environment as a means for accommodating our own needs, all of us must recognize and treasure all life around us as our brother and sister. Thus will we finally come to the place of total intimacy and safety, the cosmic temple of the Lord, our home.

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

“*Laudato si', mi' Signore*” In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. (1)

This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. (2)

These situations have caused sister earth, along with all the abandoned of our world, to cry out, pleading that we take another course. Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years. (53)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That all of our homes may be places of love and welcome, where everyone's voice is heard and respected, let us pray to the Lord.

Option 2: That all children may grow up in places of respect and safety, in loving homes and a healthy environment, let us pray to the Lord.

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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