

# Integral Faith

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



Catholic Climate Covenant™  
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

## Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A (9 August 2020)

### Homily Helps

#### † Comment for the day:

There are two nature miracles on the sea in Matthew's gospel. The reading for this Sunday relates the second of these. Both draw on the common experience of those who fished on the Sea of Galilee in the first century. They knew that this lake can have sudden violent storms, storms which can just as quickly subside. And Jesus takes the disciples into the midst of one of them.

This story can also be seen as a lesson for the early Church. When Matthew's Gospel was written down, sixty years after Christ's death and resurrection, the faith of the community was being severely tested by persecutions. The gospel story shows us that Jesus takes his disciples into the midst of the storm for a reason, to strengthen their courage. Peter, who according to Matthew had a prominent place in the early Church, took courage and stepped out of the boat. Then he lost his confidence. But Jesus was there to take his hand. How often do we start a good work and then stop when the going gets tough? Confronting the forces and conditions that are devastating our common home takes courage and perseverance. Ancient wisdom and many indigenous peoples teach us that humans share the web of life with all creatures. Biblical wisdom teaches us that nature is a gift of God that must be respected and cared for. †

#### Scripture passages to note:

**1 Kings 19:** There was a tiny whispering sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave.

**Psalm 85:** Kindness and truth shall meet. Justice and peace shall kiss.  
The Lord himself will give his benefits. Our land shall yield its increase.

**Romans 9:** Blessed forever be God who is over all.

**Matthew 14:** Jesus hastened to reassure them. Get hold of yourselves. It is I. Do not be afraid.

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

Modern anthropocentrism has paradoxically ended up prizing technical thought over reality, since the technical mind sees nature as an insensate order, as a cold body of facts, as a mere given, as an object of utility, as raw material to be hammered into useful shape; it views the cosmos similarly as a mere space into which objects can be thrown with complete indifference. (#115)

### Homily Helps (cont.)

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 (cont.)

Modernity has been marked by an excessive anthropocentrism, which today under another guise continues to stand in the way of shared understanding and of any effort to strengthen social bonds. The time has come to pay renewed attention to reality and the limits it imposes....Often what was handed on was a Promethean vision of mastery over the world, which gave the impression that the protection of nature was something that only the faint-hearted cared about. Instead, our 'dominion' over the universe should be understood more properly in the sense of responsible stewardship. (#116)

Nor must the critique of a misguided anthropocentrism underestimate the importance of interpersonal relationships....We cannot presume to heal our relationship with nature and the environment without healing all fundamental human relationships. (#119)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That we may have the wisdom to be ever-mindful of our true place in nature as members of a vast interdependent community that includes many species and overlapping ecosystems, all created by God to reflect God's purposes and God's glory, let us pray to the Lord....

**Option 2:** That we may come to see the glory of God reflected in the gentlest of breezes and the humblest of creatures, 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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