

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 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A (23 August, 2020)

Homily Helps

† Comment for the day:

The key was a symbol of authority. In the time of Isaiah, it was worn over the shoulder by the Chief Steward of the King's palace.

In Matthew's account of Peter's profession of faith, Peter is singled out as receiving the key of authority. Many biblical scholars speculate that Peter moved to and lived in the city of Antioch for many years, where the Gospel of Matthew most likely was written. Thus, Peter plays a prominent part in the Gospel of Matthew. At the same time, that Gospel indicates (in chapter 18) that the power to bind and loose is possessed by the whole Christian community.

All the readings for this Sunday stress the very real partnership that God establishes with human beings. The work we perform is a sharing in God's own creative power. What we do has a real impact on others and on creation. The authority we exercise comes from God, to whom we are responsible.

When we reflect on the profound changes in the modes of human work and production that have taken place over the last two centuries, we see the scope of power and creativity we are able to exercise. At the same time, we are also aware that unbalanced exercise of this power has had a profound and often negative impact on our common home. For this reason, Pope Francis asks that we reexamine how we understand the nature, purpose and value of human work.

In this time of contention over the authority of the law, the constitution, and officials in the government, these readings remind that love of God, other humans and the environment must guide our political and personal decisions.

† Scripture passages to note:

Isaiah 22: I will summon my servant Eliakim, and give over to him your authority.
I will place the key of the House of David on his shoulder.
When he opens, no one shall shut; when he shuts, no one shall open.

Psalms 138: The Lord is exalted, yet the lowly he sees;
The proud he knows from afar.
Your kindness, O Lord, endures forever;
Forsake not the work of your hands.

Romans 11: For from God and through God and for God all things are. To God be glory forever.

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.

Matthew 16: On this Rock I will build my church and the jaws of death shall not prevail against it. I will entrust to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you declare bound on earth shall be bound in heaven; whatever you declare loosed on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Homily Helps (cont.)

† Passages from Laudato Si' to note:

The orientation of the economy has favored a kind of technological progress, in which the costs of production are reduced by laying off workers and replacing them with machines....Human costs always include economic costs, and economic dysfunctions always involve human costs. To stop investing in people, in order to gain greater short-term financial gain, is bad business for society. (#128)

There is a great variety of small-scale food production systems which feed the greater part of the world's peoples, using a modest amount of land and producing less waste....Economies of scale, especially in the agricultural sector, end up forcing smallholders to sell their land or to abandon traditional crops. (#129)

Discussions are needed in which all those directly or indirectly affected (farmers, consumers, civil authorities, scientists, seed producers, people living near fumigated fields, and others) can make known their problems and concerns, and have access to adequate and reliable information in order to make decisions for the common good, present and future. (#135)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: We give thanks for all those who through their work participate in God's own generative work of creation. May God bless all who labor, and may God give us the grace to appreciate the work that our neighbors perform as partners in the divine work of nurturing and sustaining, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: May all in the Christian community who hold positions of leadership be guided by God's own Spirit, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com

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

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