

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 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A (30 August, 2020)

Homily Helps

† Comment for the day:

A central theme of *Laudato si'* is "integral ecology." It is a somewhat novel term. Pope Francis discusses this concept in Chapter 4 of the document. By it he means an approach to our appreciation of creation, our common home, that recognizes the interrelatedness of *everything*. As he asserts many times, "Everything is connected." In that light, he challenges us to adopt a "vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis."

Integral ecology has many elements and dimensions, both human and social. So chapter 4 treats a wide variety of themes: the environment, the economy, modern culture, daily life, the common good, and justice between generations. In the Introduction of *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis writes, "I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet." One might say that in chapter 4, he is pulling things together and paving the way for a "call to action."

But first a vision! Today's prayers and scriptures remind those who seek to follow Jesus that there is a difference between our standard human way of doing things and God's Way. For this reason, we need to deepen our sense of reverence for God's gifts. We need to allow ourselves to "be transformed by the renewal of our minds" through God's Word and the Spirit's inspiration, rather than to simply "conform ourselves to this age." And as we allow our faith to become an integral part of our way of thinking, we need to become like the prophets who "cry out" – at times with "outrage" – at what we see happening to our planet, which is God's creation and our common home.

Engaging ourselves fully – heart and mind, spirit and body – in caring for our common home must become part of our lives and our culture. We should daily be ready to "to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice," and this should be fully woven into our weekly celebration of Eucharist together. Nothing short of that is what is "holy and pleasing to God."

† Scripture passages to note:

Jeremiah 20: Whenever I speak, I must cry out, violence and outrage is my message....It becomes like fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones.

Psalms response: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Romans 12: I urge you...offer your bodies as a living sacrifice....Do not conform ourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.

Matthew 16: Get behind me Satan!...You are thinking not as God does but as human beings do.

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:

The fragmentation of knowledge and the isolation of bits of information can actually become a form of ignorance unless they are integrated into a broader vision of reality. (#138)

When we speak of the "environment", what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and the society that lives in it... Recognizing the reasons why a given area is polluted requires a study of the workings of society, its economy, its behavior patterns and the ways it grasps reality... We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis that is both social and environmental. (#139)

We take these systems into account not only to determine how best to use them, but also because they have an intrinsic value independent of their usefulness. Each organism as a creature of God, is good and admirable in itself; the same is true of the harmonious ensemble of organisms. (#140)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That God may widen our vision so that we can more fully appreciate the interconnectedness of all elements of creation, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That the Spirit may renew our minds and hearts so we will not go along with the environmental carelessness that marks the way of our age and culture, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com

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

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