

Integral Faith

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



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

Homily Resources and Petitions for the Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (2 August, 2020)

Homily Helps

† Comment for the day:

Three of the four scripture readings today refer to the great heavenly banquet described by the prophets in the Hebrew Scriptures and by the Parable of the Wedding Feast in Matthew's gospel. We hear of a foreshadowing of the heavenly banquet in the story of Jesus' multiplying the loaves and fishes. The feast foreseen by Isaiah was for the people of Israel. Matthew's story tells us that the heavenly banquet is for anyone and everyone. "they all ate and were satisfied."

Psalm 145 assures us four times that God loves and satisfies all people. God is near to all of us. Paul shares his confidence that nothing will separate us from that love. This love is proven in the abundance of food and drink God provides for all. This abundance is not only for all humans; it is for all God's creatures. Yet, TV and radio news, the internet, and newspapers are full of accounts of people suffering want and injustice: drought and locusts in Africa, starvation in Yemen, food insecurity in rural and urban areas. Whole groups of people are unjustly excluded from this abundance because of racial and ethnic prejudice. Wild animals are losing their habitat and starving. They then migrate to cities and farms which gives rise to zoonotic diseases like Corona virus and Ebola in humans. Sea creatures are being harmed by huge amounts of plastic in the oceans.

God invites us, "Come to me heedfully. Listen that you may have light." Perhaps we might take some time to heed God's voice calling us to care for our common home so that it can provide for those who have no resources because climate change is destroying their lands and polluting their water. Like the disciples we might heed a call to be God's instruments in finding ways to see that more of God's creatures share in the abundance that God has created in the heavenly banquet and that of the earth.

† Scripture passages to note:

Isaiah 55: Come to me heedfully, listen that you might have life.

Psalm 145: The eyes of all look hopefully to you,
and you give them their food in due season;
you open your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Romans 8: ...nor any other creature will be able to separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 14: Taking the loaves and two fish, and looking up to heaven,
he said the blessing, broke the loaves,

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and gave them to the disciples,
who in turn gave them to the crowds.
They all attend were satisfied.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

Climate change is a global problems with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods...many of the poor live in areas particularly affected by phenomena related to warming, and their means of subsistence are largely dependent on natural reserves and ecosystemic services such as agriculture, fishing and forestry. They have no other financial activities or resources which can enable them to adapt to climate change or to face natural disasters, and their access and protection is very limited.... [#25]

God has written a precious book, “whose letters are the multitude of created things present in the universe. The Canadian bishops rightly pointed out that no creature is excluded from this manifestation of God. “From panoramic vistas to the tiniest living form, nature is a constant source of wonder and awe. It is also a continuing revelation of the divine.” The bishops of Japan, for their part, made a thought-provoking observation: “To sense each creature singing the hymn of its existence is to live joyfully in God’s love and hope.” This contemplation of creation allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us, since “for the believer, to contemplate creation is to hear a message, to listen to a paradoxical and silent voice. [#85]

Indeed, the Eucharist is in itself an act of cosmic love...The world that came forth from God’s hands returns to him in blessed and undivided adoration: in the bread of the Eucharist “creation is projected towards divination, towards the holy wedding feast, towards unification with the creator himself. Thus, the Eucharist is also a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation. [236]

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we be open to God’s call to care for our common home, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That our gratitude for God’s abundance lead us to work toward a world where all people share in it.

Further Resources

Feedback: Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org

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

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