

## Homily Helps and Petitions for the The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, Cycle A (1 January 2020)

### Homily Helps

#### † **Comment for the day:**

Many of us maintain an image of God as judge, and that is true enough. God is judge. But while God as judge upholds the standard of righteousness, he is not judgmental, in the sense of someone waiting to condemn us. God is for us. Our readings remind us that God holds out blessing for us; that he will be gracious to us; that if we turn toward him his face will shine upon us. Through Jesus God calls us to adoption as children and heirs.

On this day at the beginning of the New Year, the Holy Father delivers his World Day of Peace homily. He summons us to look both back and forward, renewing our commitment to reconciliation with all people and with all God's creation. Indeed, to live as ambassadors of God's peace and reconciliation is what it means to live out our calling as children of God.

In a world torn by violence and broken by unsustainable demands upon the environment, fulfilling that calling is more urgent than ever. Yet at times we may feel overwhelmed by the vocation to be witnesses to God's peace and reconciliation in our families, in our communities, and in our world. At those times, let us call to mind the example of Mary. She bore the God-child in her womb with love beyond all telling. She treasured all these things in her heart, and they sustained her.

#### † **Scripture passages to note:**

**Numbers 6:** The LORD bless you and keep you!  
The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!  
The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!

**Psalms 67:** May God have pity on us and bless us; may he let his face shine upon us.  
So may your way be known upon earth; among all nations, your salvation.

**Galatians 4:** When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

**Luke 2:** All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds.  
And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.

## Homily Helps (cont.)

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

When nature is viewed solely as a source of profit and gain, this has serious consequences for society. This vision of "might is right" has engendered immense inequality, injustice and acts of violence against the majority of humanity, since resources end up in the hands of the first comer or the most powerful: the winner takes all. Completely at odds with this model are the ideals of harmony, justice, fraternity and peace as proposed by Jesus. (#82)

We can hardly consider ourselves to be fully loving if we disregard any aspect of reality: "Peace, justice and the preservation of creation are three absolutely interconnected themes, which cannot be separated and treated individually without once again falling into reductionism." [The Bishops of the Dominican Republic] (#92)

[T]he originally harmonious relationship between human beings and nature became conflictual (cf. Gen 3:17-19). It is significant that the harmony which Saint Francis of Assisi experienced with all creatures was seen as a healing of that rupture. Saint Bonaventure held that, through universal reconciliation with every creature, Saint Francis in some way returned to the state of original innocence. (#66)

Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically... He was particularly concerned for God's creation and for the poor and outcast. He loved, and was deeply loved for his joy, his generous self-giving, his openheartedness... He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace. (#10)

In calling to mind the figure of Saint Francis of Assisi, we come to realize that a healthy relationship with creation is one dimension of overall personal conversion, which entails the recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures, and leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change. The Australian bishops spoke of the importance of such conversion for achieving reconciliation with creation. (#218)

## Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That we may support the peacemakers in our world and become peacemakers ourselves, let us pray to the Lord...

**Option 2:** That all people may grow in their reverence for God's creation, let us pray to the Lord...

## Further Resources

Feedback: [Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org](mailto:Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org)

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