

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity – Cycle A (7 June 2020)

Homily Helps

† Comment for the day:

In today's reading from John's Gospel, we are told that God so loved the world that he sent his Son that it might be saved. Through Jesus we are brought into the relationship of love that binds the Trinity together. We usually refer this passage to all humanity. Do we also consider God's love and salvation extending to all of creation?

In an animal orphanage in Nairobi National Park, visitors can walk up to the edge of an enclosure containing an eland and a rhinoceros. Eland are the largest antelope on the planet. Often children take branches to scratch the backs of these two lumbering giants. The animals seem to relish their daily massages and probably consider humans to be noble, likeable creatures.

At the same time, humans are responsible for their being contained in an orphanage, and by the end of the century humans may cause the very extinction of their species, eland from habitat loss, and rhinos from poaching for their horns, which are sold at enormous profit in Asia. This illustrates the seeming schizophrenia humans exhibit. We love the iconic animals of the world – and who wouldn't like to be able to scratch the back of a rhinoceros? – but we seem to be unable to control the very behavior that is putting their existence, and our own, at grave risk. Why is it that our own actions do not reflect an appreciation of God's love for the world?

Rather than preserving the Earth, often human activity seems to be taking its toll at an ever quickening pace. In *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis observes, "Human intervention...is actually making our earth less rich and beautiful...even as technological advances and consumer goods continue to abound limitlessly." (# 34) He warns, "The continued acceleration of changes affecting humanity and the planet might be called 'rapidification.' Although change is part of the working of complex systems, the speed with which human activity has developed contrasts with the naturally slow pace of biological evolution." (# 18) Out of love for God's creation can we slow the pace of change so that such fellow creatures as rhinos and eland can survive?

† Scripture passages to note:

Exodus 34: This is indeed a stiff-necked people; yet pardon our wickedness and sins, and receive us as your own...

The LORD, the LORD, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity.

Daniel 3: Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, praiseworthy and exalted above all forever. And blessed is your holy and glorious name, praiseworthy and exalted above all for all ages.

John 3: For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

Homily Helps (cont.)

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right. (#33)

Caring for ecosystems demands far-sightedness, since no one looking for quick and easy profit is truly interested in their preservation. But the cost of the damage caused by such selfish lack of concern is much greater than the economic benefits to be obtained. Where certain species are destroyed or seriously harmed, the values involved are incalculable.

Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another. (# 42)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That all people of good will join together in protecting and preserving our common home, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: May God aid all of us to learn about what is happening to our common home and investigate where we can collaborate in actions to preserve the wonderful gift of creation that our loving God has given us, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org

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

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