

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle C (July 17, 2022)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Genesis 18: Looking up, Abraham saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he ran from the entrance to the tent to greet them; and bowing to the ground, he said, "Sir, if I may ask you this favor, please do not go on past your servant...let me bring you a little food, that you may refresh yourselves.

Colossians 1: It is he whom we proclaim, admonishing everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

Luke 10: Martha welcomed [Jesus]. She had a sister named Mary who sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me." The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."

† Comments for the Day:

Two of the readings this Sunday highlight the importance of hospitality. In Genesis, Abraham provides an elaborate feast to the three strangers who are manifestations of God. In Luke's gospel, Martha prepares a multi-course meal for Jesus and probably for his disciples as well. Mary's hospitality lies in her readiness to take Jesus' teachings into her heart. And in his letter to the Colossians, Paul declares that Christ is the life of all things, leading us and all of creation to abundant life.

Both service to others and listening to God's word are essential in Christian life. Our hospitable God has created this beautiful planet as a home for all creatures and provides the means for all to live in it. Unfortunately, there are forces in the world today that see our home as an inert money-making resource to be plundered, rather than a source of life meant for all.

Our service lies in the protection of our common home and of those people in need. These include migrants and refugees who are forced off their lands by climate change, and by ravaging of their forests, water sources, and fields for profit. May we honor this call to service by advocating to protect God's creation from exploitation and degradation, and thus protect life itself.

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:

We must forcefully reject the notion that our being created in God's image and given dominion over the earth justifies absolute domination over other creatures. The biblical texts are to be read in their context [and imply] a relationship of mutual responsibility between human beings and nature. Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations. (67)

When nature is viewed solely as a source of profit and gain, this has serious consequences for society. This vision of "might makes 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: winner takes all. Completely at odds with this model are the ideals of harmony, justice, fraternity and peace as proposed by Jesus. (82)

Is it realistic to hope that those who are obsessed with maximizing profits will stop to reflect on the environmental damage which they will leave behind for future generations? Where profits alone count, there can be no thinking about the rhythms of nature, its phases of decay and regeneration, or the complexity of ecosystems which may be gravely upset by human intervention. (190)

The principle of the maximization of profits, frequently isolated from other considerations, reflects a misunderstanding of the very concept of the economy. As long as production is increased, little concern is given to whether it is at the cost of future resources or the health of the environment; as long as the clearing of a forest increases production, no one calculates the losses entailed in the desertification of the land, the harm done to biodiversity or the increased pollution. (195)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we might live a life of balance between service to protect the earth and prayerful listening to Christ as Mary did, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That we might increase our awareness of the needs of others, particularly those suffering the effects of environmental exploitation and climate change, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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