

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B (17 January 2021)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

1 Samuel 3: “Here I am. You called me.” ... “Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening’”.

Psalm 40: Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will. ... He put a new song into my mouth, ... ears open to obedience you gave me. ... to do your will, O my God is my delight.

1 Corinthians 6: Your bodies are members of Christ. But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him. ... Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you. ... Glorify God in your body.

John 1: “Behold the Lamb of God.” ... “Where are you staying?” ... “Come and you will see.” So they went and saw where Jesus was staying.

† Comment for the day:

Where does Jesus stay? Where does God live?

We all have some sense of the Divine Presence. We are all like young Samuel when we hear a voice calling us. It can happen while we sleep, provoked by a dream. It can be a memory of something past that suddenly hits us again. Sometimes people constantly hear voices in their head but can't figure out who is speaking or how they are to respond. Young Samuel was blessed. He kept going to Eli who finally told him to respond the next time saying: “Speak, Lord. I'm listening.” And we might add, “I'm here to do your will.”

Jesus is the Word of God become human to dwell among us. He came and remains to talk to us in language we can understand, to invite us and call us to follow him as we journey through life. In Jesus, the Word became incarnate in creation. Central to our faith is that God, in Christ, is always with us, always at our side, guiding us and leading us to greater fullness of life. We are each integral to God's creation, as it were a cell in the Body of Christ, so it's important that we each respond: *Here I am*. The priest geologist, theologian and mystic Teilhard de Chardin had a deep sense of God's presence in the very stuff of our planet and of the Universe, from rocks to sunshine to wind. He heard God speak to him there. It guided his life. He came to see the energy of the Universe as God's love.

Teilhard suggests that we too should see ourselves as cells in Jesus the Christ's body which encompasses the Universe. Creation is sacred because it is the body of God. Teilhard expressed his faith conviction with a prayer titled “*The Mass on the World*.” He sees God's presence in the flourishing of life on earth and the Universe as God's Temple. As Pope Francis puts it in his encyclical, *Laudato Si`*,

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we are to join St. Francis in singing of God's presence on Mother Earth, in Brother Sun and Sister Moon. And we are to care for the Temple where God lives and Jesus stays – here, in us on our Common Home.

Are we listening?

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

76. Creation “has to do with God’s loving plan ... [and] can only be understood as a gift from the outstretched hand of the Father of all, and as a reality illuminated by the love which calls us together into universal communion.

77. Creation is of the order of love. God’s love is the fundamental moving force in all created things: ... Dante Alighieri spoke of “the love which moves the sun and the stars”.

80. God is intimately present to each being, ... which ensures the subsistence and growth of each being, “continues the work of creation”. The Spirit of God has filled the universe with possibilities and therefore, from the very heart of things, something new can always emerge....

83. The ultimate destiny of the universe is in the fullness of God, ... already [attained] by the risen Christ.... All creatures are moving forward with us and through us towards a common point of arrival, which is God, ... where the risen Christ embraces and illumines all things. Human beings ... are called to lead all creatures back to their Creator.

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we will all keep our ears, our hearts, and our minds open so we will listen to the songs of Creation but also the cries of the poor and of the earth, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That we will bond with others in common efforts to care for the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, all living things that move, seed-bearing plants and trees, and all the living creatures, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com

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

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