

Integral Faith

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



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

Homily Helps and Petitions for the 18th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B (August 1, 2021)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Exodus 16: The whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. “Would that we had died at the Lord’s hand in the land of Egypt, as we sat by our fleshpots and ate our fill of bread!” On seeing it [manna from heaven] the Israelites asked, “What is this?” for they did not know what it was. But Moses told them, “This is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.”

Psalms 78: The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

John 6: Jesus said to them, “For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” So they said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life: whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.”

† Comments for the Day:

Grumbling is a favorite pastime for many. It makes them feel better to put the blame on others when something goes wrong and they are inconvenienced or dissatisfied. At first the Israelites were jubilant when Moses led them out of Egypt, that horrible place of slavery. But then came the time of testing when they faced the perils of the desert on their way to the Promised Land. Weariness, aching bodies, and hunger plagued them until they resorted to constant grumbling. Each time they spewed their anger at Moses for leading them into what they considered a “God-forsaken” desert, he called on the Lord and the Lord generously satisfied their need. Meat was provided for them, and when they grumbled about being bored with meat, God sent manna. Still, they asked, “What is this?” when they saw fine flakes like hoarfrost on the ground. Here we must wonder why the Israelites never seemed to be satisfied.

As Pope Francis points out in his encyclical *Laudato Si*, approximately a third of all food produced is discarded. So it becomes very clear that there is an immoral imbalance in the distribution of that food. This is not to say that there aren’t effective and creative programs whose mission is to bring good and nutritious food to the tables of the poor. But the question remains, why are there starving people in a world that produces an overabundance of food? Some cite the world’s unjust political structure, the struggle by some for wealth and power, and the inability of many to be satisfied. Along that line, Pope Francis proposes that the enormous use of natural resources in the global north adversely affects the global south, especially with regard to the south’s inability to produce enough of its own food. It would seem then that greed

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is the reason for the lack of an equitable supply of food to satisfy the needs of every person on the planet.

In today's gospel, Jesus invites those in the crowd who are searching for him to believe that he is indeed the bread of God. There is no need then to look up to the sky for manna or quail. The Bread of Life walks among us, sustaining us and promising that if we truly believe, we will never hunger again. Like the crowd that surrounded Jesus, we ask, "Sir, give us this bread always!" All we need do is look around and see the faces of the people in our homes, our communities, our nation, and our world. There is the face of Jesus who invites us into his presence. There is the bread of God. But the authentic reception of this bread requires that we become what we eat – and be satisfied.

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

We know that approximately a third of all food produced is discarded, and "whenever food is thrown out it is as if it were stolen from the table of the poor." Still, attention needs to be paid to imbalances in population density, on both national and global levels, since a rise in consumption would lead to complex regional situations, as a result of the interplay between problems linked to environmental pollution, transport, waste treatment, loss of resources, and quality of life. (50)

The warming caused by huge consumption on the part of some rich countries has repercussions on the poorest areas of the world, especially Africa, where the rise in temperature, together with drought, has proved devastating for farming. (51)

We fail to see that some are mired in desperate and degrading poverty, with no way out, while others have not the faintest idea of what to do with their possessions, vainly showing off their supposed superiority and leaving behind them so much waste which, if it were the case everywhere, would destroy the planet. (90)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we may be satisfied with just what we need of the life-giving resources that God's creation provides, and that we share those resources generously, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That our reception of the Eucharist may cause a transformation in our lives and that we may become that which we have received, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 3: That we may become aware that what we often want is not necessarily what we actually need, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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