

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Helps and Petitions for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B (September 5, 2021)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Isaiah 35:** Hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not. ... The eyes of the blind (will) be opened, the ears of the deaf cleared; ... then the tongue of the mute will sing. Streams will burst forth in the desert, and rivers in the steppe. The burning sands will become pools, and the thirsty ground, springs of water.

**Psalms 146:** The Lord gives sight to the blind.

**James 2:** Show no partiality as you adhere to the faith. ... Have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil designs? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom?

**Mark 7:** People brought to Jesus a deaf man who had a speech impediment. ... (Jesus) said to him, "Be opened!" And immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly.

#### † Comments for the Day:

From September 1 to the Feast of St. Francis on October 4 each year the Catholic and Orthodox churches of the world celebrate a "Season of Creation." Its intent is to remind believers that God entrusted planet earth to us humans and charged us to take good care of it.

Given what is happening to the environment in which we and all creatures live, it appears we are not doing an adequate job. All living systems are in decline worldwide. Mother Earth is in serious trouble, as are all of us. Too many of us either don't see what's unfolding or are unwilling to listen to the facts. Like the man brought to Jesus, we are blind and deaf. A lot of people are frightened about the current state of God's creation, and for what faces their children and grandchildren. On the other hand, a lot of people seem oblivious to existential threats like climate change.

Today's gospel challenges us to let Jesus open our eyes to see what's happening, and our ears to listen to what scientists are telling us. It also calls us to take care of creation – not only for our own good, but also for the glory of God our creator. Rather than being frightened, God calls us to be strong and unafraid as we face reality and then act. Millions of people are migrating because their land is so parched it cannot sustain them. Faith includes taking to heart what God asks of us

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.

and doing whatever we can so “the burning sands will become pools and the thirsty ground springs of water.” Such loving action will help provide “food for the hungry and justice for the oppressed.” With Jesus we must strive to “do all things well,” for both ourselves and others.

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

Many of the poor live in areas particularly affected by phenomena related to warming, and their means of subsistence are largely dependent on natural reserves and eco-systemic services such as agriculture, fishing and forestry. They have no other financial activities or resources which can enable them to adapt to climate change or to face natural disasters ... There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation. (25)

Fresh drinking water is an issue of primary importance, since it is indispensable for human life and for supporting terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Sources of fresh water are necessary for health care, agriculture and industry. ... Water poverty especially affects Africa where large sectors of the population have no access to safe drinking water or experience droughts which impede agricultural production. Some countries have areas rich in water while others endure drastic scarcity. (28)

Human beings too are creatures of this world, enjoying a right to life and happiness, and endowed with unique dignity. So we cannot fail to consider the effects on people’s lives of environmental deterioration, current models of development and the throwaway culture. (43)

Love for society and commitment to the common good are outstanding expressions of a charity ... social love moves us to devise larger strategies to halt environmental degradation and to encourage a 'culture of care' which permeates all of society. (231)

## Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That we will open our eyes and ears to what is happening to the planet that sustains us, and feel comfortable talking about it with family and friends, let us pray to the Lord ...

**Option 2:** That each of us will work together to heal the earth in our own ways using our own gifts and talents, let us pray to the Lord ...

## Further Resources

**Feedback:** [info@catholicclimatecovenant.org](mailto:info@catholicclimatecovenant.org)

**Webpage:** [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help)

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