

Integral Faith

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



Catholic Climate Covenantsm
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Homily Resources and Petitions for the 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time Cycle C (November 3, 2019)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Wisdom 11: Before the LORD the whole universe is as a grain from a balance or a drop of morning dew come down upon the earth. But you have mercy on all, because you can do all things; and you overlook people's sins that they may repent. For you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made. Your imperishable spirit is in all things!

2 Thessalonians 1,2: We always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and powerfully bring to fulfillment every good purpose.... We ask you, brothers and sisters, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling with him, not to be shaken out of your minds...

Luke 19: [Zacchaeus] ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus....For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face. The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul, but also to discover God in all things. (#233)

Local individuals and groups can make a real difference. They are able to instill a greater sense of responsibility, a strong sense of community, a readiness to protect others, a spirit of creativity and a deep love for the land.... Unless citizens control political power – national, regional and municipal – it will not be possible to control damage to the environment. (#179)

In the absence of pressure from the public and from civic institutions, political authorities will always be reluctant to intervene, all the more when urgent needs must be met.... A healthy politics is sorely needed, capable of reforming and coordinating institutions, promoting best practices and overcoming undue pressure and bureaucratic inertia. (#181)

† Comment for the day:

Today's reading from the Book of Wisdom anchors us in a profound spiritual vision. The author contemplates a simple grain and a single drop of morning dew, and he is overwhelmed by the holiness of God, whose mercy embraces all and whose imperishable spirit is in all things. In recent days or weeks, what part of God's created world that has filled you with wonder and awe, gratitude

and joy? How has that encounter nudged you to a deeper conversion and personal transformation? Has it impacted your lifestyle, your consumer choices, or your decisions as a citizen who will go to the polls?

In his letter to the Thessalonians, St. Paul confronts certain false teachings which mislead that Christian community. Before offering his constructive criticism, he assures them of his love and constant prayer. He also challenges them to be worthy of God's calling. He says that they are to help "to bring to fulfillment every good purpose." What is God's calling and purpose for your life? Is it to be a successful professional, a good spouse, a good parent, a congenial neighbor, or reliable coworker? Have you thought that your purpose-driven life might also include a commitment to care for the poor and safeguard the earth? For St. Paul, to be a follower of Christ – a new Adam – means that one be willing to be an instrument of God's peace and reconciliation between peoples and within all God's creation – in a world whose original harmony has been ruptured by sin.

Let us also ask ourselves: What are some of false teachings and dangerous attitudes that lead the contemporary Christian community astray? Pope Francis, for example, challenges the views and attitudes of those who fail to see that the issues around climate justice and environmental sustainability are among the most consequential, moral, pro-life issues facing us. Certainly, one of the most important common goods is the wellbeing of the Earth, the common home on which all depend. Pope Francis warns against the deadly danger of apathy on the part of Christians who opt not contribute to the common good or witness to their values in the arena of citizenship. Rather, to fulfill these responsibilities accords with a faith-filled life in line with the mission of Jesus.

In the Gospel, we hear about Zacchaeus running ahead and climbing a sycamore tree to see Jesus. His dogged attitude and unwavering commitment should inspire us on our path of ongoing encounters with the living Christ. We may encounter him in the love of our parents or children. He also reveals himself to us in the poor and most vulnerable. And if we have a stamina and determination of Zacchaeus, we, too, could see Jesus in the collective struggle for human dignity, for climate justice, for a healthy politics.

† **Related Prayers of the Faithful:**

Option 1: May God grant people of our nation the gift of wisdom, intelligence, and discernment. May we be as determined as Zacchaeus in trying to see Jesus in and through the eyes of the poor, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That the example of Zacchaeus and his determination to see Jesus may inspire the people of our nation to care for the poor, safeguard God's creation and restore a healthy politics, let us pray to the Lord....

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