

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 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time Cycle C (November 17, 2019)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Malachi 3: The day is coming, blazing...leaving neither root nor branch. But for you...the sun of justice with its healing rays.

Psalm 98: The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

Let the sea,...the world,...the rivers,...the mountains shout with joy....The Lord comes to rule the Earth – the world with justice, the peoples with equity.

2nd Thessalonians 3: We did not act in a disorderly way among you.... On the contrary, in toil and drudgery, night and day we worked.... If anyone was unwilling to work, neither should that one eat....Some are conducting themselves among you in a disorderly way.... Such people we instruct and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to work quietly and to eat their own food.

Luke 21: While some people were speaking about how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings, Jesus said, "...the days will come when there will not be left one stone upon another..."

"Teacher, when will this happen? And what sign will there be..." "See that you not be deceived.... There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place; and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky.... You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death....[B]ut not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

Christian spirituality proposes an alternative understanding of the quality of life, and encourages a prophetic and contemplative lifestyle, one capable of deep enjoyment free of the obsession with consumption. We need to take up an ancient lesson, found in different religious traditions and also in the Bible. It is the conviction that "less is more". A constant flood of new consumer goods can baffle the heart and prevent us from cherishing each thing and each moment. To be serenely present to each reality, however small it may be, opens us to much greater horizons of understanding and personal fulfillment. Christian spirituality proposes a growth marked by moderation and the capacity to be happy with little. (#222) Such sobriety, when lived freely and consciously, is liberating. (#223)

No one can cultivate a sober and satisfying life without being at peace with him or herself....Inner peace is closely related to care for ecology and for the common good because, lived out authentically, it is reflected in a balanced lifestyle together with a capacity for wonder which takes us to a deeper understanding of life. (#225)

Saint Therese of Lisieux invites us to practise the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship. An integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness. (#230)

Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world. (#231)

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. (#233) [T]he mystic experiences the intimate connection between God and all beings... (#234)

† **Comment for the day:**

This time of year in nature sees things dying off and the days darkening. That experience can create the sense that the day of doom and dissolution is upon us. On a deeper level, when darkness creeps into our lives and a feeling of despair takes hold of us, we can lose the capacity to care about ourselves, much less our neighbors and the world around us.

In times when we are tempted to lose heart, our faith in God the Creator calls us rather to see the beauty of the world and the working of God in it. We are to shout with joy and align our work with the work of God, working to promote justice in the world, equity among peoples, and wellbeing in God's creation. As God's stewards, we are called to promote the beauty and order of the earth and society, rather than diminishing and destroying them. That will bring us peace, rest, solidarity with others and with nature. It will enable us to see God in all things and to praise God with great joy.

† **Related Prayers of the Faithful:**

Option 1: That God sustain and empower those living in the midst of human and environmental disaster, especially those who organize to clean up the mess and to redress the causes, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That God inspire us all to live inside and out the Joy of the Gospel, reveling daily in the beauty of creation, in God's presence in nature and nature's presence in God, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 3: That God dispel the greed of those who have the power and resources to poison earth's waters and pollute her air, and motivate us all to do our part to make and keep them clean, let us pray to the Lord....

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