

# Integral Faith

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



Catholic Climate Covenant<sup>sm</sup>  
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

## Homily Resources and Petitions for the Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi, religious (October 4, 2019)

**Lectionary: 651** *Below are the readings suggested for today's Memorial. However, readings for the Memorial may also be taken from the Common of Holy Men and Women: For Religious, #737-742.*

**Gal 6:14-18:** Brothers and sisters: May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither does circumcision mean anything, nor does uncircumcision, but only a new creation. Peace and mercy be to all who follow this rule and to the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make troubles for me; for I bear the marks of Jesus on my body. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

**Psalm 16:1B-2A, 5, 7-8, 11:**

R. (see 5a) **You are my inheritance, O Lord.**

Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, "My Lord are you."  
O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup, you it is who hold fast my lot.

R. **You are my inheritance, O Lord.**

I bless the LORD who counsels me; even in the night my heart exhorts me.

I set the LORD ever before me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

R. **You are my inheritance, O Lord.**

You will show me the path to life, fullness of joys in your presence,  
the delights at your right hand forever.

R. **You are my inheritance, O Lord.**

**Alleluia: (See Mt 11:25)**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;  
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the Kingdom.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Matthew 11:25-30:**

At that time Jesus answered: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

## Homily Helps

### † Scripture passages to note:

**Galatians 6:** For neither does circumcision mean anything, nor does uncircumcision, but only a new creation.

**Psalms 16:** You will show me the path to life...

**Matthew 11:** Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.

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

[Saint Francis of Assisi] shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace. (#10)

His response to the world around him was so much more than intellectual appreciation or economic calculus, for to him each and every creature was a sister united to him by bond of affection. That is why he felt called to care for all that exists. (#11)

International negotiations cannot make significant progress due to positions taken by countries which place their national interests above the global common good. (#169)

It should be added, though, that even the best mechanisms can break down when there are no worthy goals and values, or a genuine and profound humanism to serve as the basis of a noble and generous society. (#181)

Here I would state once more that the Church does not presume to settle scientific questions or to replace politics. But I am concerned to encourage an honest and open debate so that particular interests or ideologies will not prejudice the common good. (#188)

The majority of people living on our planet profess to be believers. This should spur religions to dialogue among themselves for the sake of protecting nature, defending the poor, and building networks of respect and fraternity. (#201)

In calling to mind the figure of Saint Francis of Assisi, we come to realize that a healthy relationship with creation is one dimension of overall personal conversion, which entails the recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures, and leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change. (#218)

### † Comment for the day:

Early in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis notes that we need to turn to the figure of Francis of Assisi for help, the same saint whom he took as guide and inspiration when elected Bishop of Rome. The passages from the encyclical noted above give some indication of how we might use Francis of

Assisi as a guide in our work to protect our Mother Earth, along with all the people who make the Earth their home.

Another way to help us understand this compelling man of God might be to see him as the saint of the “three P’s.” Looking through the writings on Francis of Assisi, he appears as a person who was polite, practical and persistent. These three attitudes can help us in our own approach to working for the planet and for its people.

First, Francis was polite. He reached out to all, young and old, rich and poor, noble and commoner, listening to them attentively and inviting everyone to love and care for one another, especially those most marginalized. In a world full of vitriol, prejudice and closed-mindedness, Francis becomes a model to his followers and to all those enchanted by his spirit, to reach out politely to those around us, and to promote the dialogue that is a consistent refrain in *Laudato Si’*.

Next, Francis was eminently practical. When he heard a voice from the crucifix asking him to “rebuild my Church,” he did not sit around and think about what he might do, but immediately begged stone and mortar and set about repairing the church in which he found himself. When he counseled the friars to be men of peace, he first of all showed them how to do so: he worked to repair the broken relationship between the bishop and mayor of Assisi; he set out to Egypt to seek audience with the Sultan, and this in the midst of the Crusades!; he personally went, or sent other friars, to patch up social unrest in three specific cities of Italy. We need to be proactive in our approach to the task of caring for our Earth and its inhabitants. We may not always hit the target on our first attempt, but DOING something will move us beyond talk and invite others to become involved in addressing the grave issues facing us.

Finally, Francis of Assisi was persistent. Like the images from the Gospel of the man asking for bread from his neighbor to feed a late-arriving friend, or the woman who was persistent in her requests of the judge, Francis kept at the tasks to which he felt God was calling him. In his encyclical, Pope Francis reminds us that we must be at our task of protecting the world and its children for the long haul. Let us commit to this project for the duration of our lives, dedicating ourselves to that which must be done, and challenging others to become involved as well.

#### † **Related Prayers of the Faithful:**

**Option 1:** That the spirit of Francis of Assisi might permeate our lives and encourage us to care for God’s creation, and to love our sisters and brothers throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord....

**Option 2:** That we might politely invite all to share in the task of building God’s kingdom and protecting all of God’s children, let us pray to the Lord....

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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