

Integral Faith

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



Homily Resources and Petitions for the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B (19 August 2018)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Proverbs: Forsake foolishness that you may live; advance in the way of understanding.

Responsorial Psalm: When the poor one called out, the Lord heard, and from all his distress he saved him.

Ephesians: Watch carefully how you live, not as foolish persons but as wise, making the most of the opportunity, because the days are evil...try to understand what is the will of the Lord.

John: Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

Yet it must also be recognized that nuclear energy, biotechnology, information technology, knowledge of our DNA, and many other abilities which we have acquired, have given us tremendous power. More precisely, they have given those with the knowledge, and especially the economic resources to use them, an impressive dominance over the whole of humanity and the entire world. (#104).

Human beings and material objects no longer extend a friendly hand to one another; the relationship has become confrontational. This has made it easy to accept the idea of infinite or unlimited growth, which proves so attractive to economists, financiers and experts in technology. It is based on the lie that there is an infinite supply of the earth's goods, and this leads to the planet being squeezed dry beyond every limit. (#106).

But human beings are not completely autonomous. Our freedom fades when it is handed over to the blind forces of the unconscious, of immediate needs, of self-interest, and of violence. (#105).

When we fail to acknowledge as part of reality the worth of a poor person, a human embryo, a person with disabilities – to offer just a few examples – it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself; everything is connected. (#117).

† **Comment for the day:**

Throughout the Scriptures there is a repeated invitation for us to seek wisdom and to abandon foolish ways. This theme is highlighted in the readings from Proverbs and Ephesians. In the midst of foolishness and evil, we are encouraged to seek the will of the Lord, so that we might advance in the way of understanding. Today's Psalm reminds us that to do this we must call on the Lord. In the Gospel, John teaches that in feeding on the bread of heaven, on Jesus, we will have life because of Jesus. Feeding on Jesus makes us one with Him and with His mission.

To participate in the mission of Jesus, a mission that thrives on love and promotes life, Pope Francis encourages us to understand the world in which we live. He is impressed by the technological advances that we have made. He is worried, however, that the power given through these advances is not matched by a similar advance in values, responsibility and conscience. Lack of concern for our sisters, our brothers and for the earth itself have led us to squeeze the earth dry beyond any limit. We must move beyond our immediate needs, which will allow us to hear the cry of all people, especially the poor, and the cry of the earth itself.

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That our partaking of the bread of heaven might give us the strength to attend the cries of our sisters and brothers, and of the earth, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That we might recognize the finite nature of the goods of the earth, and learn to share them with all our sisters and brothers, especially those most in 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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