

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Resources and Petitions for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (30 September, 2018)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture passages to note:

**READING: Numbers**-Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets!

**READING: Psalm 19**-The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

**READING: James**-You have lived on the earth in luxury and pleasure; ... You have condemned; you have murdered the righteous one;

**READING: Mark**-There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is against us is with us.

#### † Comment for the day:

Today's scripture readings offer us a powerful meditation on the Holy Spirit and on the contrast between a life centered on ego-gratification and one centered on justice and compassion. Necessary as human rules, hierarchies and structures are for society to function, the Holy Spirit is not confined by them. While God calls certain people to be designated prophets, teachers and leaders, everyone is called to exercise these functions according to the circumstances of her life. The Spirit does not conform to our notions of who is in and who is out. The "meeting tent" erected by Moses in the desert was the place in which Moses and God spoke to each other. Our reading from Numbers describes the Spirit spilling out from Moses, first to the elders, then to people outside the tent. Jesus spent his public life ministering to tax collectors, sinners and foreigners and continually pointed out that they were closer to the Kingdom than the official religious leaders. Jesus in Mark's gospel echoes Moses. His disciples seem to be more interested in protecting their special status as disciples than in the healing that was taking place. James condemns the values of the short-sighted rich whose focus on accumulating status symbols deafens them to the cries of the destitute right under their noses. He warns of the consequences of this way of living. Using exaggeration and symbolic language Jesus seems to denounce those who are so focused on their own faults and failings that they neglect simple acts of compassion like relieving the thirsty and nurturing children and the needy.

Pope Francis tells us that the race to acquire more and more consumer goods will never end in satisfaction. The way to peace, quality of life and human fulfillment lies in human community, the community of all living things, care for future generations and spirituality.

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

Every violation of solidarity and civic friendship harms the environment (Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter *Caritatis in Veritate* (29 June 2009) sense, social ecology is necessarily institutional, and gradually extends to the whole of society, from the primary social group, the family, to the wider local, national and international communities. Within each social stratum, and between them, institutions develop to regulate human relationships. [#142]

With regard to climate change, the advances have been regrettably few. Reducing greenhouse gases requires honesty, courage and responsibility, above all on the part of those countries that are powerful and pollute the most...International negotiations cannot make significant progress due to positions taken by countries which place their national interests above the common good. [#169]

Christian spirituality proposes an alternate understanding of the quality of life, and encourages a prophetic and contemplative lifestyle, one capable of deep enjoyment free of 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.” [#222]

The Spirit, infinite bond of love, is intimately present at the very heart of the universe, inspiring and bringing new pathways. [#238]

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That we as a Christian community develop the honesty, courage, and responsibility to look beyond our own interests to the needs of the earth and its people, we pray to the Lord...Lord, hear our prayer.

**Option 2:** That we might open our ears to listen to God’s call to be prophets whatever our life situations, we pray to the Lord...Lord, hear our prayer.

### 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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