

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 3rd Sunday of Lent, Cycle A (March 12, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Exodus 17: "Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it."

Psalms 95: Oh, that today you would hear his voice: "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the desert."

Romans 5: The love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

John 4: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty."

† Comments for the Day:

The Israelites had marched to freedom through the waters of the Red Sea, but they were lost in the desert and out of fresh water. God had Moses rescue them despite their grumbling.

Paul assures us that the grace of God is poured out into our hearts through Christ's sacrifice. Jesus' conversation with a shunned woman about the water of eternal life opens her heart to his life-giving love, and enables her to reach out to her community with that love.

The headlines make us aware of the world's water crisis. Lakes and rivers are drying up, and the oceans are rising and becoming acidic. Indigenous people are being robbed of their sources of water – and many are forced to pay for it. Kenya's Amboseli National Park is littered with the bones of animals that have died of thirst and starvation. Southwestern states are fighting over access to the Colorado River, while others are frequently flooded.

The U.N. has designated the 22nd of this month as World Water Day. Let us mark that day by advocating for governments to pass legislation to conserve water by banning factory farms and wasteful lawn watering, reducing polluted runoff, and other conservation measures. Doing our best to ensure that God's blessing of water is available to everyone, especially the poor and most vulnerable, witnesses to God's love for humanity.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

One particularly serious problem is the quality of water available to the poor. Every day unsafe water results in many deaths and the spread of water-related diseases, including those caused by microorganisms and chemical substances. Dysentery and cholera, linked to inadequate hygiene

This resource is provided by Catholic Climate Covenant in collaboration with the Integral Faith Team, a group of male and female religious, priests, and lay people dedicated to serving the Church.

and water supplies, are a significant source of suffering and infant mortality. Underground water sources in many places are threatened by the pollution produced in certain mining, farming and industrial activities, especially in countries lacking adequate regulation or controls. It is not only a question of industrial waste. Detergents and chemical products, commonly used in many places of the world, continue to pour into our rivers, lakes and seas. (29)

Oceans not only contain the bulk of our planet's water supply, but also most of the immense variety of living creatures, many of them still unknown to us and threatened for various reasons. What is more, marine life in rivers, lakes, seas and oceans, which feeds a great part of the world's population, is affected by uncontrolled fishing, leading to a drastic depletion of certain species. Selective forms of fishing which discard much of what they collect continue unabated. Particularly threatened are marine organisms which we tend to overlook, like some forms of plankton; they represent a significant element in the ocean food chain, and species used for food ultimately depend on them. (40)

Interdependence obliges us to think of *one world with a common plan*. . . . [A global] consensus could lead, for example, to planning a sustainable and diversified agriculture, developing renewable and less polluting forms of energy, encouraging a more efficient use of energy, promoting a better management of marine and forest resources, and ensuring universal access to drinking water. (164)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we advocate for justice for those who lack clean water and whose water is stolen from them, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That we reduce our consumption of unsustainably harvested seafood, mindful of the limits of earth's natural bounty, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

Webpage: www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help

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