

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, Cycle A (26 March 2017)

### Homily Helps

#### † Comment for the day:

This Sunday's readings put before us images of oil, clay, and saliva; of looking, anointing, the rushing of the Spirit, washing, seeing, sending and being sent. In our own day, God uses elements of the earth, our common home, to cure our blindness so that we can see things with new eyes, feel the release of the Spirit within us, and become bearers of the light of truth. Let us pray that God open all our eyes so that we can see clearly. Faith involves seeing reality anew, differently. This new way of seeing includes taking account of the poor and of the earth, our common home. It includes seeing that being human takes place as a part of creation. Our eyes – our way of seeing things and understanding what's going on -- need anointing and healing so that we can see God at work in our world and tell others about it.

#### † Scripture passages to note:

**1 Samuel 16:** The Lord said, "Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way. I am sending you..." "Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart."... The Lord said, "There – anoint him, for this is the one!" Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed David...; and from that day on, the spirit of the Lord rushed upon David.

**Psalm response:** The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

**Ephesians 5:** You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth... Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness. ... Christ will give you light.

**Matthew 17:** [Jesus] saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned...?" "Neither he nor his parents sinned... We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."... He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on [the blind man's] eyes, and said, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam." – which means *Sent* -- So he went and washed and came back able to see.

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

[T]he technological mind sees nature as an insensate order, as a cold body of facts, as a mere 'given,' as an object of utility, as raw material to be hammered into useful shape; it views the cosmos similarly... The intrinsic dignity of the world is thus compromised. When human beings fail to find their true place in this world, they misunderstand themselves and end up acting against themselves. (#115)

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.

## Homily Helps (cont.)

### † Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note (cont.):

Often what was handed on was a Promethean vision of mastery over the world, which gave the impression that the protection of nature was something that only the fainthearted cared about. Instead, our 'dominion' over the universe should be understood more properly in the sense of responsible stewardship. (#116)

There can be no ecology without an adequate anthropology. When the human person is considered as simply one being among others, the product of chance or physical determinism, then "our overall sense of responsibility wanes". [Benedict XVI *Message for the 2010 World Day of Peace*] (#118)

Human beings cannot be expected to feel responsibility for the world unless...their unique capacities of knowledge, will, freedom and responsibility are recognized and valued. (#117) We cannot presume to heal our relationship with nature and the environment without healing all fundamental human relationships... Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationships with others and with God. (#119) We need to develop a new synthesis. (#121)

A misguided anthropocentrism leads to a misguided lifestyle. ... When human beings place themselves at the center, they give absolute priority to immediate convenience and all else becomes relative. We should not be surprised to find ... the rise of a relativism that sees everything as irrelevant unless it serves one's own immediate interests. (#122)

## Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That God may heal the blindness of all of who think they see clearly while adopting lifestyles that compound the darkness, let us pray to the Lord....

**Option 2:** That God may anoint each of us to be children of light, acting rightly in the midst of a culture that is often cold and technocratic, let us pray to the Lord....

## Further Resources

Feedback: [IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com](mailto:IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com)

Webpage: [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help)

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