

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A (10 September 2017)

Homily Helps

† Comment for the day:

Chapter 18 of Matthew's Gospel is concerned with the life of the Christian community and, by extension, of the whole human community. The conclusion of Matthew's Gospel presents Jesus's final command to us, his disciples: "Go! Make disciples of all nations." God loves the human race, all of us. We are all God's children called to live together in communities marked by love for one another.

That message has not yet reached all persons alive on our planet today, nor even the hearts of all of those who profess to be Christian. For example, still widespread is a sense of superiority on the part of educated, urbanized and highly developed consumerist societies toward the less 'educated' (by modern standards), agricultural, and indigenous societies. That dismissive attitude too often results in exploitation of indigenous peoples, their culture, and their land.

As followers of Jesus we are called to be 'watchmen' on behalf of our brothers and sisters, ready and willing to raise our voices in protest when we learn of those who exploit others. Though sometimes such exploitation is not fully conscious or intentional, we know that the degradation it results in is an evil. It certainly is not loving, nor does it come from God. Therefore, as the readings of this day emphasize, when we see one of our brothers sinning against others whom we also count as part of our family, we must go and tell them. We are to owe nothing to anyone, exploiters or exploited, except to love them as fully as we love ourselves and those who are like us.

† Scripture passages to note:

Ezekiel 33: You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel; when you hear me say anything, you shall warn them for me....If I tell the wicked, "O wicked one, you shall surely die," and you do not speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way...I will hold you responsible for his death.

Psalms response: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Romans 13: Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another....'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

Matthew 18: If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault.... For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

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:

Together with the patrimony of nature, there is also an historic, artistic, and cultural patrimony that is likewise under threat....Ecology involves protecting the cultural treasures of humanity in the broadest sense. (#143)

A consumerist vision of human beings, encouraged by the mechanisms of today's globalized economy, has a leveling effect on cultures, diminishing the immense variety that is the heritage of all humanity. (#144)

There is a need to respect the rights of people and cultures... (#144)

Many intensive forms of environmental exploitation and degradation not only exhaust the resources that provide local communities with their livelihood but also undo the social structure that for a long time shaped cultural identity and their sense of the meaning of life and community. The disappearance of a culture can be just as serious or even more serious, than the disappearance of a species of plant or animal. (#145)

It is essential to show special care for indigenous communities and their cultural traditions. (#146)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That the Spirit may deepen our appreciation of the diverse races and cultures within our human family, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That God may give us the courage to stand as watchmen to protect all members of the human race and their cultures, especially the indigenous peoples of the world, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com

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

Visit our webpage to sign up to receive these resources delivered to your email inbox each month.