

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A (17 September 2017)

Homily Helps

† **Comment for the day:**

In the Gospel of this day, Matthew presents a parable of Jesus that highlights the quality of compassion. Jesus tells a story about a king who decides to "settle his accounts with his servants." In this story the king shows compassion to one of his servants, but that servant does not do likewise. Jesus's parable makes clear that the king – which is to say our loving God – is enormously compassionate in dealing with us, but he in turn expects us to be compassionate in dealing with one another. If we ourselves hope for compassion, should we not create a society in which compassion permeates all our relationships?

For people to flourish, their society must be marked by "the conditions of social life" that allow both its individual members and social groups to have "relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfillment." That is what we call 'the common good' in our Catholic moral thinking about our social life.

Our world today is marked enormous disparities of income, wealth, and the conditions essential to full human development. We, each and all, need to be compassionate in our own dealings with others. More, as citizens of a nation with vast resources, it is incumbent upon us as followers of Christ to be compassionate toward those who have far less.

† **Scripture passages to note:**

Sirach 27: Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the Lord? Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins?

Psalms response: The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Romans 14: None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord....[W]e are the Lord's.

Matthew 18: The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants....A debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount....The servant...did him homage, and said 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion, the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan.

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

An integral ecology is inseparable from the notion of the common good, a central and unifying principle of social ethics. The common good is the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfillment. (#156)

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.):

In the present condition of global society, where injustices abound and growing numbers of people are deprived of basic human rights and considered expendable, the principle of the common good immediately becomes, logically and inevitably, a summons to solidarity and a preferential option for the poorest of our brothers and sisters. This option entails recognizing the implications of the universal destination of the world's goods.... (#158)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That the Spirit heighten our of compassion and our appreciation of the common good in the decisions we make that affect others, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That the Spirit may lead us to forgive others who have trespassed against us, so that we can then turn to God to ask that our own trespasses be forgiven, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com

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

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