

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (29 January 2017)

Homily Helps

† Comment for the day:

In his message to the community at Corinth, Paul reminds the sisters and brothers that everyone must be included in efforts to organize our lives and our world. Those who are considered foolish and weak often put to shame those who are considered wise and strong. Each of us has something to offer. Zephaniah speaks of the faithful remnant of Israel and notes how they seek refuge in the Lord; because of their faith and their concern for one another, they will fear no one and no situation. The responsorial psalm and the Gospel passage both remind us that we are all responsible for one another, especially for the weakest and most vulnerable. Like Jesus, we will be reviled and persecuted for our willingness to speak out against injustice, inequality and misery.

Pope Francis repeats the message of today's readings in his encyclical: we are called to seek the common good and to minister to all our sisters and brothers. But he extends the notion of caring. He notes how we are connected to and in constant interaction with the world around us. We cannot see ourselves as separate from our environment, with a right to exploit the planet and its resources at our whim. He also speaks out in favor of future generations: we cannot be concerned merely with our own good and that of those around us. The common good must be extended to those who will come after us. We must not bequeath to them a world of debris, desolation and filth.

† Scripture passages to note:

Zephaniah 3: (A people) shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord – the remnant of Israel... They will pasture and lie down, and no one shall make them afraid.

I Corinthians 1: God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.

Matthew 5: Blessed are the poor in spirit... those who mourn... the meek... those who hunger and thirst for righteousness... the merciful... the pure of heart... the peacemakers... those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake... Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it. (#139)

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.):

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)

The notion of the common good also extends to future generations. (#156)

Doomsday predictions can no longer be met with irony or disdain. We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth. (#161)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we learn to extend the notion of the common good to all our sisters and brothers, to those who will come after us, and to our planet, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That like our all good and all merciful God, we reach out to those who live in poverty, to the marginalized and to the vulnerable, 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.