

# Integral Faith

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



Catholic Climate Covenant™  
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

## Homily Helps and Petitions for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (September 3, 2023)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Jeremiah 20:** Whenever I speak, I must cry out, violence and outrage is my message; ... I will speak his name no more. But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones.

**Psalms 63:** My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

**Romans 12:** I urge you ... to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.

**Matthew 16:** [Jesus] turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does but as human beings do."

#### † Comments for the Day:

A central theme of *Laudato Si'* is "integral ecology." By that, Pope Francis means an approach to appreciating creation, our common home, that recognizes the interrelatedness of everything. As he asserts many times, "Everything is connected." In that light, he challenges us to adopt a "vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis."

Integral ecology has many human and social elements and dimensions, and *Laudato Si'* covers a wide variety of themes: the environment, the economy, modern culture, daily life, the common good, and intergenerational justice. In his introduction, Pope Francis writes, "I urgently appeal ... for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet." He pulls things together and entreats a "call to action." Are we responding, acting as needed?

But first, a vision! Today's prayers and scriptures remind those who follow Jesus that there is a difference between our standard human way of doing things and God's way. For this reason, we need to deepen our sense of reverence for God's gifts. We need to allow ourselves to "be transformed by the renewal of our minds" through God's word and the Spirit's inspiration, rather than to simply "conform ourselves to this age." As we allow our faith to become an integral part of our thinking, we need to become like the prophets who "cry out," at times with outrage, at what is happening to our planet.

Mother earth is God's creation – and our common home. Engaging ourselves fully in caring for our home must become part of our lives, our community, our culture. Our creator calls us daily

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.

to be ready "to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice." This should be fully woven into our weekly celebration of the Eucharist. Nothing short of that is "holy and pleasing to God."

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

Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society. (91)

Since everything is closely interrelated, and today's problems call for a vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis, I suggest that we now consider some elements of an *integral ecology*, one which clearly respects its human and social dimensions. (137)

When we speak of the "environment", what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and the society that lives in it. 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... We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis that is both social and environmental. (139)

We take these [eco]systems into account not only to determine how best to use them, but also because they have an intrinsic value independent of their usefulness. Each organism as a creature of God, is good and admirable in itself; the same is true of the harmonious ensemble of organisms ... we depend on these larger systems for our own existence. (140)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That God may widen our vision, so that we can more fully appreciate how all of creation is interconnected, let us pray to the Lord ...

**Option 2:** That the Spirit may renew our minds and hearts to be both mindful about and caretakers of our warming planet, let us pray to the Lord ...

### Further Resources

**Feedback:** [info@catholicclimatecovenant.org](mailto:info@catholicclimatecovenant.org)

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

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