

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 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (October 22, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Isaiah 45: I have called you by your name, giving you a title, though you knew me not. I am the Lord and there is no other, there is no God besides me.

1 Thessalonians 1: For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with much conviction.

Matthew 22: At that he said to them, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

† Comments for the Day:

As the election cycle progresses, so too the need to refer back to our essential convictions as followers of Christ. Having been created in the image and likeness of God, we are called to give witness to the basic belief that we are all one family, responsible for caring for our common home.

We have done nothing to "deserve" or "merit" this blessing; it is given as gift. And the proper response to a gift is gratitude. What better way to show our Creator that we are truly grateful than to imitate God's generosity and bounty by sharing what He has shared freely with us?

We are reminded of this challenge each day when confronted with the plight of the homeless, the desperation of those who are hungry, the stark reality of the rich growing richer while those who are poor continue to be shunted aside, discarded as worthless. And when we hear about the impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable – those who have contributed least to the problem.

The measure of our faith is not merely our demonstration of gratitude to our Creator by participating in worship, but rather true solidarity: standing alongside those on the margins, who suffer the consequences of environmental injustice like climate change.

Paying taxes is one way of contributing to the common good, but it requires careful oversight of those funds, determined not merely by partisan wrangling, or to accommodate an economy that structurally favors enrichment of the few. The political commitment of the community which follows Christ demonstrates true concern for maintaining an economy at the service of the people, rather than putting people at the service of the economy.

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.

Pope Francis is eloquent in urging us to reject consumerism, to fight corporate greed, to be mindful of how our choices impact the environment, and to advocate for earth-friendly policies. He tirelessly proclaims that climate change is a moral issue, and that God did not create the earth to be devastated and exploited by humans for our own selfish purposes.

Let us honor our obligation to care for the earth as our common home, and to promote the well-being of all our sisters and brothers.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

We must continue to be aware that, regarding climate change, there are *differentiated responsibilities*. As the U.S. bishops have said, greater attention must be given to "the needs of the poor, the weak and the vulnerable, in a debate often dominated by more powerful interests." We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family. There are no frontiers or barriers, political or social, behind which we can hide, still less is there room for the globalization of indifference. (52)

The earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone. For believers, this becomes a question of fidelity to the Creator, since God created the world for everyone. Hence every ecological approach needs to incorporate a social perspective which takes into account the fundamental rights of the poor and the underprivileged. (93)

A healthy politics is sorely needed, capable of reforming and coordinating institutions, promoting best practices and overcoming undue pressure and bureaucratic inertia. It should be added, though, that even the best mechanisms can break down when there are no worthy goals and values, or a genuine and profound humanism to serve as the basis of a noble and generous society. (181)

A strategy for real change calls for rethinking processes in their entirety, for it is not enough to include a few superficial ecological considerations while failing to question the logic which underlies present-day culture. (197)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That the Spirit guide us to be mindful of the earth and its peoples in our everyday decisions and actions, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That in complex circumstances, we may find our voice and advocate for the planet and for the rights of all its people, especially those most vulnerable to climate change, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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