

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 3rd Sunday of Lent, Cycle B (March 3, 2024)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Exodus 20: "I, the Lord, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery.... Remember to keep holy the sabbath day. Six days you may labor and do all your work... The Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy."

Psalms 19: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.

1 Corinthians 1: Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

John 2: He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace."

† Comments for the Day:

We tend to think that keeping rules brings order and peace to the groups to which we belong. In the book of Exodus, God gives the Israelites commandments that are more than just rules. God's commandments show how the people in the desert can keep the covenant that God had made with them.

In this way, we too can honor God's covenant to keep both God and neighbor close and to live according to the values embodied in the covenant. Unfortunately, our culture values profit and power above all else. We are God's faithful who can help others value, not the things of earth, but those of heaven.

Jesus made bold statements about love, mercy, and care of our neighbors; and Lent is a time of almsgiving. This year there is a critical need for food, clothing, and shelter for the migrants being bused far into other cities. Helping them with these needs is valuing mercy above making a profit.

Likewise, we can help care for those who are suffering from the affects of pollution brought about by exploitation of resources, and by climate change whose root case stems from corporate greed. Earth, our common home, also needs tending with care to preserve and heal the

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.

devastation it has suffered from those who destroy its beauty and creatures in the pursuit of profit.

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

One particularly serious problem is the quality of water available to the poor. Every day, unsafe water results in many deaths and the spread of water-related diseases, including those caused by microorganisms and chemical substances. Dysentery and cholera, linked to inadequate hygiene and water supplies, are a significant source of suffering and infant mortality. (29)

Oceans not only contain the bulk of our planet's water supply, but also most of the immense variety of living creatures, many of them still unknown to us and threatened for various reasons.... Particularly threatened are marine organisms which we tend to overlook, like some forms of plankton; they represent a significant element in the ocean food chain, and species used for food ultimately depend on them (40)

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". (52)

Interdependence obliges us to think of *one world with a common plan*.... [A global] consensus could lead, for example, to planning a sustainable and diversified agriculture, developing renewable and less polluting forms of energy, encouraging a more efficient use of energy, promoting a better management of marine and forest resources, and ensuring universal access to drinking water. (164)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we advocate for justice for those who lack clean water or whose water is taken from them, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That, during this Lenten season, we strive to help those most impacted by pollution and human-caused climate change, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

Webpage: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/learn/resources/?category-filter=Homily+Helps&audience-filter=&month-filter=&year-filter=all&archive-search=>

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