

# 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, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B (February 11, 2024)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Psalm 32:** I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

**1 Corinthians 10:** Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved.

**Mark 1:** A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."

#### † Comments for the Day:

The refrain from today's responsorial psalm provides us with a stance that can help us in times like ours, full of uncertainty, stress, and pain: "I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation." Like the man in the gospel, who lived the consequences of his leprosy every day, each of us faces difficulties in our day-to-day lives. But the man had faith and cried out to Jesus: "If you wish, you can make me clean." Shockingly, Jesus touched him, risking ritual uncleanness and contamination, and cured him. But the personal healing was not enough, so Jesus sent the man to the authorities so that he could be reaccepted into the midst of the society from which he had been banned.

In *Laudato Si'*, and more recently in *Laudate Deum*, Pope Francis makes an impassioned plea for universal fraternity. He asks everyone to have the courage of Jesus to reach out to all our sisters and brothers, along with earth, "our common home." He reminds us repeatedly that everything is interconnected, and that we live in relationship with one another and with nature. Awareness of these relationships is inseparable from the notion of the common good, which underscores the respect due to every human person and to environment itself, a gift of God to all of us.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul admonishes his readers to avoid offending others, but instead to do everything to please others. We are to "die to self," to not seek our own benefit but that of the many. Then, in the gospel, Jesus literally selflessly reaches out to the leper.

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.

Today, we are invited to read the signs of the times and to recognize those who are calling out for help today: those marginalized from society, those suffering racial injustice, those affected by climate change, and so many others who face debilitating difficulties in their lives.

St. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of our current pope. In his process of conversion, the saint, like Jesus in today's gospel, was confronted with a leper. He overcame his own revulsion and embraced the leper. He then worked to address the problems of the lepers and of others excluded by the society of his day. This can serve as a model for ourselves as we work to spread the gospel message today – one of hope that human love will overcome human selfishness, particularly in the context of caring for creation.

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

Let us review, however cursorily, those questions which are troubling us today and which we can no longer sweep under the carpet. Our goal is not to amass information or to satisfy curiosity, but rather to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it. (19)

Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God. Otherwise, it would be nothing more than romantic individualism dressed up in ecological garb, locking us into a stifling immanence. (119)

When we speak of the “environment”, what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and the society which lives in it. (139)

[S]elf-improvement on the part of individuals will not by itself remedy the extremely complex situation facing our world today. Isolated individuals can lose their ability and freedom to escape the utilitarian mindset, and end up prey to an unethical consumerism bereft of social or ecological awareness. Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds. (219)

## Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That in the spirit of Pope Francis we might all strive to promote the common good and work to protect earth, our common home, let us pray to the Lord...

**Option 2:** That we recognize the interconnectedness of all peoples and nations, and foster those policies and actions that will promote the good of all, let us pray to the Lord...

## Further Resources

Feedback: [IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com](mailto:IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com)

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

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