

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 5th Sunday of Easter, Cycle B (April 28, 2024)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

1 John 3: Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

John 15: I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ... Every branch in me that ... bears fruit he prunes so that it bears more fruit. ... Without me you can do nothing.

† Comments for the Day:

Is it conceivable that in contemporary society where social media is so prevalent and urban life predominates that someone could actually die of loneliness? The deep darkness of the tomb within us as well as surrounding us, as experienced by Jesus during those bleak days between crucifixion and resurrection, are starkly endured by many in our world today.

Isolation, abandonment, victimization, being treated as an object rather than a person, something to be used then discarded, all these give witness to the level of loneliness present in the world created by God to be our common home. Creation itself is groaning, the natural world as well as the creatures which inhabit it are longing to experience the true sense of belonging which is written into our DNA. For Christians, believing in one God who is trinitarian communion suggests that the Trinity has left its mark on all creation.

We are all part of a single vine both in faith and in our shared nature. We were created to bring forth great fruit on this planet, our common home. That is part of our mission, our function, our purpose. We are to care for life on our planet so the vital elixir of God's love will flow through us to others whom we encounter.

The reality of our love for creation and for all God's people is something that has to be evidenced "in deed and in truth" by our action, our testimony, and even our choices when it comes to such things as clean water, air, plastics, what we eat (and throw away), and how we consume resources and energy.

Let's briefly confront our progress as a People committed to an ethos for sustainable living. In order to measure our progress, let's recall these seven goals found in Laudate Deum, Francis' recent urgent invitation to greater communion and participation:

- 1. Grow in authentic faith** which not only gives strength to the human heart, but also transforms life, transfigures our goals and sheds light on our relationship to others and with creation as a whole. (#61)

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.

- 2. Increase awareness that all of us are linked by unseen bonds** and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect. (#67)
- 3. Accompany the pilgrimage of reconciliation with the world that is our home** and to help make it more beautiful, because that commitment has to do with our personal dignity and highest values. (#69)
- 4. Be committed to personal change.** There are no lasting changes without cultural changes, without a maturing of lifestyles and convictions within societies, and there are no cultural changes without personal changes. (#70)
- 5. Contribute to efforts by households to reduce pollution and waste, and to consume with prudence, creating a new culture.** The mere fact that personal, family and community habits are changing is contributing to greater concern about the unfulfilled responsibilities of the political sectors and indignation at the lack of interest shown by the powerful. (#71)
- 6. Help bring about greater processes of transformation rising from deep within society.** (#71)
- 7. Stop thinking of human beings as autonomous, omnipotent and limitless,** and begin to think of ourselves differently, in a humbler but more fruitful way. (#68) “Praise God” for when human beings claim to take God’s place, they become their own worst enemies. (#73)

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

We are not God. The earth was here before us and it has been given to us. This implies a relationship of mutual responsibility between human beings and nature. Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations. (#67)

In this way he gave humanity the chance of a new beginning. All it takes is one good person to restore hope! Those who tilled and kept the land were obliged to share its fruits, especially with the poor, with widows, orphans and foreigners in their midst. (#71)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That our bishops, priests, baptized persons and all politicians will take the climate crisis seriously and actively address it, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That we will all see God’s presence in the temple of creation, in ourselves and in others as surely as we believe in Christ’s presence in the Eucharist, and will revere God’s presence there, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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