

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 7th Sunday of Easter, Cycle B (May 12, 2024)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages:

Acts 1: You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this apostolic ministry from which Judas turned away to go to his own place. ... The lot fell upon Matthias. ...

Psalm 118: The Lord has set his throne in heaven.

1 John 4: Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. ... If we love one another, God remains in us and his love is brought to perfection in us. ... The Father sent his Son as savior of the world.

John 17: Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed ... that they may be one just as we are one. ... As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world.

† Comments for the Day:

There is a tendency in our individualistic culture to turn away from the larger community and go our own way, to our own place. So long as our place is good for us, we tend to settle in and do nothing further that might make the world in which we live good for others too. That includes paying attention to our environment. Through baptism, we like Matthias are called out to serve the community. As Christians, we are chosen!

While we think of the Lord's throne as set in heaven, Jesus is the Son of God leaving his place at the throne and coming to earth to be among us. He comes to save us, to make life better for us, to overcome the self-centeredness which afflicts so many of our human race. The Word became flesh to dwell among us and bring us life in abundance. As God loves us, we are to love ourselves *and* others. We are to be part of the Body of Christ to which care for our planet and the flourishing of life on earth has been entrusted.

Jesus lived among us because he was sent into our world. He in turn sends us into the world at this time. He came to be one of us so we would become one with all others, as in the Trinity all are one. Taking care of creation and being ourselves part of the flowing river of love that is intended to reach all is our responsibility. There are too many Judases who care only about themselves and so go their own self-centered way. We, like Matthias, are among those chosen to carry on Jesus' work. That includes taking care of Mother Earth where we all live.

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.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'*:

The current global situation engenders a feeling of instability and uncertainty, which in turn becomes “a seedbed for collective selfishness”. When people become self-centered and self-enclosed, their greed increases. The emptier a person’s heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume. It becomes almost impossible to accept the limits imposed by reality. In this horizon, a genuine sense of the common good also disappears. As these attitudes become more widespread, social norms are respected only to the extent that they do not clash with personal needs. (#204)

We are always capable of going out of ourselves towards the other. Unless we do this, other creatures will not be recognized for their true worth; we are unconcerned about caring for things for the sake of others; we fail to set limits on ourselves in order to avoid the suffering of others or the deterioration of our surroundings. Disinterested concern for others, and the rejection of every form of self-centeredness and self-absorption, are essential if we truly wish to care for our brothers and sisters and for the natural environment. ... If we can overcome individualism, we will truly be able to develop a different lifestyle and bring about significant changes in society. (#208)

Self-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 all human beings who share life with one another on this planet will see themselves as part of God’s one family, all responsible for caring for our common home, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That our appreciation for the Creator’s generosity in giving us a home on this planet will express itself in the love Jesus teaches us to have for one another and for the care we take of Mother Earth who sustains us, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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