

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 10th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B (June 9, 2024)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Genesis 3: the LORD God called to the man and asked him, "Where are you?"

Mark 3: "He is out of his mind" . . . But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit.

† Comments for the Day:

Today's reading from Genesis alludes to our failure to remember who we are and where we live, which constitutes the roots of sin. In a similar vein, Saint John Paul II wrote that at the root of our ecological crisis lies "the anthropological error," that is, we forgot who we are and what it means to be human. And like in the case of our archetypal biblical ancestors, Adam and Eve, God asked, "Where are you?" This lapse of not knowing has serious ramifications. It should also be noted that these extend beyond the personal level to take on social, political, and ecological dimensions.

As a homilist, you may want to illustrate how those dynamics play out in contemporary America. For example, consider the recent decision of our country's leaders to largely turn our backs on tens of thousands of desperate children, women, and men seeking refuge. Some of our fellow Americans choose to ignore the fact that their ancestors, too, came to this country fleeing abject poverty and violence. It is easy to lose sight of how much we are indebted to others: our families and communities, cultures and societies. We sometimes forget that we are beneficiaries of the land, the oceans, and the various ecosystems. They are God's unmerited gifts to us. A failure to see our place within God's beautiful tapestry of life leads us to miss the mark of what it means to be truly human.

It sounds ludicrous to us that in the Gospel, the scribes accuse Jesus of being possessed by Beelzebul. But doesn't that situation find an echo in our contemporary times? Think of some specific people or groups in our country or city or state who, like Jesus, are engaged in expelling demons. There are demons of fear and ignorance, demons of arrogance and abuse of power, and demons of racism and violence. You may have heard some ludicrous claims by those who grab and hold onto power. They sometimes accuse those who follow in the footsteps of Jesus and lift the poor and vulnerable of actually hurting them. Consider the following examples:

- An immigrant mother trying to save the life of her teenage son who is fleeing a war zone in Honduras is charged with human trafficking.

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.

- An American citizen protesting against the torture and the sale of US-made weapons to oppressive, violent regimes is accused of being unpatriotic.
- Young people protesting against the epidemic of gun violence and its profiteers are being criticized as being misinformed and as pawns of the anti-life forces. Their thinking has become so muddled that they see guns as “pro-life.” Examples of such blasphemies against the Holy Spirit abound and can be found in the daily news.

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

Today...we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. (49)

It is foreseeable that, once certain resources have been depleted, the scene will be set for new wars, albeit under the guise of noble claims. War always does grave harm to the environment and to the cultural riches of peoples, risks which are magnified when one considers nuclear arms and biological weapons. (57)

Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world. Love for society and commitment to the common good are outstanding expressions of a charity which affects not only relationships between individuals but also “macro-relationships, social, economic and political ones.” (231)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That millions of people around the world who are environmental refugees, may we as a nation seek the grace of conversion and turn away from the unjust, selfish and harmful policies that harm the poor and undermine their right to life, let us pray to the Lord . . .

Option 2: That our Church may not be afraid to face opposition and slander as she stands her and speaks against public policies that offend human dignity, crush the poor, aggravate economic injustice and destroy the life-support system of our common home, let us pray to the Lord, 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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