

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B (August 11, 2024)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

1 Kings 19: An angel came and ordered Elijah to get up and eat.

Ephesians 4: So be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love.

John 6: I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die."

† Comments for the Day:

Elijah's sad lament was answered by God with food that gave him strength to continue his long journey to the mountain of God and to experience the presence of the Holy One. Just so the poor of the earth and creation itself is crying out, hungering for nourishment and care in our own time.

Our rich tradition provides us with the prayer which St Augustine pronounced over 16 centuries ago in response to the hungry cries of the people of north Africa which was the breadbasket of the Roman empire. Those working the fields, as well as the fields themselves, were diminishing in the face of the challenge. As bishop Augustine stood before the congregation – composed of the field workers as well as the wealthy landowners - holding on high the blessed sacrament, he cried out: "When you hear 'The body of Christ', you reply 'Amen.' Be a member of Christ's body, then, so that your "Amen" may ring true... Be what you see; receive what you are."

We are reminded that we are called to be the Body of Christ, a sign of unity, a bond of fraternity. Augustine comments further: "whoever longs for life has here its very source; come here and believe, unite with you and live." Eucharistic nourishment feeds us through the process of conversion and brings us to greater union with Christ who is the living center of the universe. As we acknowledge our union with Christ and his body here on earth, then it becomes imperative that we also acknowledge the cry for help that comes from creation itself.

As we approach the annual celebration of the Season of Creation, may those words of Augustine remind us that participation at the eucharistic table requires us to imitate God and to live in love.

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.

Mother Earth cries out in protest that the abuse against her is too much to bear. She has given so lavishly to her children that now, without the cooperation of the human family, she is unable to continue to provide.

The human family must now come to the aid of our common mother and care for her as delicately and generously as she has for us. Pope Francis suggests that this calls us all to an “ecological conversion.” He invites us to consider a spirituality that has always been at the core of the Christian faith.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

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)

These situations have caused sister earth, along with all the abandoned of our world, to cry out, pleading that we take another course. Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years. (53)

It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an “ecological conversion,” whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. (217)

In the Eucharist, fullness is already achieved; it is the living center of the universe, the overflowing core of love and of inexhaustible life. ... Thus, the Eucharist is also a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation. (236)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That Christians may see in the Eucharist the transforming power to heal what is broken and to renew what is dying, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That we might be open to a spirit of conversion in order to live in such a way that is life-giving for the whole of Gods' creation, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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