

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B (October 13, 2024)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Wisdom 7: I pleaded, and the spirit of wisdom came to me.

Psalm 90: Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart . . . Prosper the work of our hands!

Hebrews 4: No creature is concealed from him, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account.

† Comments for the Day:

Today's readings, along with the insistent message of Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'*, are an invitation to pause and take stock of who we are, what we believe, and how we put into practice our beliefs. In the first reading, the author prays for wisdom. But what is the difference between wisdom and knowledge? Wisdom is about right relationships. Pope Francis notes how we need to find intelligent ways to care for our fragile home, to work together to address the global environmental crisis. Knowledge deals with data, facts, science, and how things work together. Here we become aware of the "technological paradigm" that works against the dignity of all that inhabits God's creation. A new paradigm for sustainability and authentic progress requires a new relationship between wisdom and knowledge.

The responsorial psalm gives a nod toward progress and begs God to *prosper the work of our hands*. The presumption is that we are wise in deploying our technology and energy to promote the common good of all people and all God's creatures. It is good to "get our hands dirty" with productive work that provides for the sustenance and wellbeing of everyone and everything. In *Laudato Si'* we are reminded that God's Spirit continually provides us with possibilities which allow new things to emerge, even in the midst of catastrophe due to human-caused climate change.

In the Letter to the Hebrews, the author warns us that we will be judged for our action, or inaction, for the impact of climate change. Crucial tipping points for sustainable life on Earth have already been crossed over. *We must render an account*. Have we used our knowledge and technology for good? Have we been wise? Do we care?

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

As examples, I will point to the intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet, the conviction that everything in the world is connected, the critique of new paradigms and forms of power derived from technology, the call to seek other ways of understanding the economy and progress, the value proper to each creature, the human meaning of ecology, the need for forthright and honest debate, the serious responsibility of international and local policy, the throwaway culture and the proposal of a new lifestyle. These questions will not be dealt with once and for all, but reframed and enriched again and again. (16)

True wisdom, as the fruit of self-examination, dialogue and generous encounter between persons, is not acquired by a mere accumulation of data which eventually leads to overload and confusion, a sort of mental pollution. Real relationships with others, with all the challenges they entail, now tend to be replaced by a type of internet communication which enables us to choose or eliminate relationships at whim . . . Today's media do enable us to communicate and to share our knowledge and affections. Yet at times they also shield us from direct contact with the pain, the fears and the joys of others and the complexity of their personal experiences. (47)

Human beings and material objects no longer extend a friendly hand to one another; the relationship has become confrontational. This has made it easy to accept the idea of infinite or unlimited growth, which proves so attractive to economists, financiers and experts in technology. It is based on the lie that there is an infinite supply of the earth's goods, and this leads to the planet being squeezed dry beyond every limit. It is the false notion that "an infinite quantity of energy and resources are available, that it is possible to renew them quickly, and that the negative effects of the exploitation of the natural order can be easily absorbed". (106)

Believers themselves must constantly feel challenged to live in a way consonant with their faith and not to contradict it by their actions. (200)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we might be inspired by the lives and wisdom of people like Francis of Assisi and Theresa of Calcutta, who were willing to sacrifice their own comfort for the good of others, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That the word of God might penetrate into the very depths of our beings, providing us with wisdom to understand environmental crises like climate change, and courage to take action to address them, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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