

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 First Sunday of Advent Cycle C (December 1, 2024)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Jeremiah 33: The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made.

1 Thes: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all.

Luke 21: Jesus said to his disciples: When these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.

† Comments for the Day:

Like Jesus, Pope Francis is urging the people of the world to read the signs of the times, not in the sun, moon and stars, but on the earth, "our common home." He warns that our heedless behavior results in great suffering, particularly for those who live on the margin, who have been left out of social benefits, who suffer the tragedy of war and famine.

As we begin this season of Advent, preparing ourselves to celebrate God's presence among us, we cannot help but question the conspicuous and excessive consumerism so readily associated with preparation for celebrating Christ's birth, which serves to pollute the ocean and overflow landfills with frivolous trash, devastating the world's soil, water and air in order to sustain our compulsive lifestyle.

The social teaching of the Church has consistently affirmed that businesses need to be directed toward the common good, since all earth's goods are a gift from God for the benefit of all. This does not deny the principle of private property but serves to remind us that there is always a social dimension to all private property in order that goods may serve the purpose that God gave them and not benefit only a few to the detriment of many.

Advent is a time not simply for waiting, passively; rather, to stand erect and raise our heads to grasp that our redemption is at hand. Advent inspires us to watch and work for the reign of God, one in which all God's good gifts are at the service of all and not just a privileged few. Pope Francis tells us that the lifestyle of the people in rich countries is causing climate change, which leads poor and indigenous people throughout the nations of the world to become climate refugees. He also reminds us that Advent is an appropriate time to demonstrate our belief that caring for the poorest and caring for the earth are inseparable and integral parts to being followers of Christ.

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.

Precisely at this time when we celebrate God's solidarity with us, we are invited to remember our social responsibility towards those on the margins, who naturally are the most affected by hurricanes and natural disasters. We are asked to evaluate the impact of our choices, to avoid excess which flies in the face of so many homeless and hungry. To practice charity at this time involves embracing concrete actions of love and self-emptying, modeled on Jesus' own life. Effective charity implies compassion expressed in drawing close to people, seeing them, recognizing their humanity and dignity, celebrating the all-embracing act of love by living it once again.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

Hope would have us recognize that there is always a way out, that we can always redirect our steps, that we can always do something to solve our problems. Still, we can see signs that things are now reaching a breaking point, due to the rapid pace of change and degradation. (61)

We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature. (139)

When [indigenous communities] remain on their land, they themselves care for it best. Nevertheless, in various parts of the world, pressure is being put on them to abandon their homelands to make room for agricultural or mining projects. (146)

The pace of consumption, waste, and environmental change has so stretched the planet's capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes, such as those which even now periodically occur in different areas of the world. The effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by our decisive action, here and now. (161)

There is a need for common and differentiated responsibilities: the countries which have benefited from a high degree of industrialization, at the cost of enormous emissions of greenhouse gases, have a greater responsibility for providing a solution to the problems they have caused. (170)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: As we begin this Advent season, may we embrace all people who are in need wherever they are in the world, especially those most impacted by climate change, let us pray to the Lord.

Option 2: That the Holy Spirit might guide decision makers in all nations to address climate change for the good of the whole world, let us pray to the Lord

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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