

# 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 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Cycle C (December 9, 2024)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Psalm 98:** Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous deeds.

**Ephesians 1:** In love God chose us in Christ, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him.

**Luke 1:** Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

#### † Comments for the Day:

At times we can be overwhelmed by the darkness which surrounds us, invades our spirit, drowns our hope, promoting despair. These are the times we are living, and we frequently allow ourselves to be blinded by our short-sightedness.

In the face of that sensation, along with generations of believers we have responded to the Psalm today – perhaps with our lips but not always with our hearts: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous deeds.

Do we dare place our hope in God, once again? And yet, it seems that God has placed hope in us! We have been invited and challenged to become co-creators with God of a better world, not just for us but for all: all people, the whole person, and all of creation. That means taking into account the consequences of our actions: considering the cost of purchasing fast fashion (which condemns generations of people to work for sub-human wages, without any social security). It involves contemplating the effects on nature of our abuse of resources, like water and energy, which condemns whole populations to suffer want and need.

Scripture today invites us to stir up the fire in the ashes, to recall the mercy we have received and to allow those embers to ignite our heart once again with hope: things can be different, the reign of God has been announced and inaugurated. Mary assented – against all odds – and contributed to allow the flicker of flame to ignite, believing beyond all calculations in the goodness of God and God's plan for creation.

On this day we too recognize how intensely loved we are by God who has visited us and clothed us with what St. Paul calls the spirit of adoption and the favor of God's will. Mary gives birth to the Savior who will bring hope and relief to those who have been banned from the gifts of the earth and who have crawled on their bellies, and who have had to eat dirt all their lives.

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.

Mary's immaculate conception challenges us to reflect on the fact that living lives of deep grace and unsullied love is indeed possible. Such love will not be limited to only a chosen few but spills over to all beings and forms of life everywhere. Pope Francis speaks of the "universal fraternity," where care for nature, indeed care for all life, is part of our lifestyle. This calls for us to cherish and enjoy as well as pass on to others the immaculate love that sees and holds all things as sacred and cherished.

How must it feel to be loved like that? "Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God."

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

We are speaking of an attitude of the heart, one which approaches life with serene attentiveness, which is capable of being fully present to someone without thinking of what comes next, which accepts each moment as a gift from God to be lived to the full. (226)

Care for nature is part of a lifestyle which includes the capacity for living together and communion. ... Fraternal love can only be gratuitous; it can never be a means of repaying others for what they have done or will do for us. That is why it is possible for us to love our enemies. This same gratuitousness inspires us to love and accept the wind, the sun and the clouds, even though we cannot control them. In this sense, we can speak of a "universal fraternity." (228)

## Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That Christians everywhere might be welcoming and attentive to the messengers who come into our lives with greetings and challenges to heal and restore a hurting world, let us pray to the Lord.

**Option 2:** That the model of Mary, mother of all things living, may inspire us all to love without counting the cost or measuring the pain, let us pray to the Lord.

## Further Resources

**Feedback:** [info@catholicclimatecovenant.org](mailto:info@catholicclimatecovenant.org)

**Webpage:** [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help)

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