

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 Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Cycle C (1 January 2025)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Numbers 6: Moses, ... this is how you shall bless the Israelites:

The LORD bless you and keep you!

The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!

The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!

Psalms 67: May God bless us in his mercy. May he let his face shine upon us.

So may your way be known upon earth; among all nations, your salvation.

May the nations be glad and exult.... May (all) the peoples praise you, O God.

Galatians 4: When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we [all of us] might receive adoption.

Luke 2: The shepherds ... went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.

† Comment for the day:

In every New Year we look for something new. In this 2025 we find ourselves in a Jubilee, a global, Catholic, year-long celebration, all the way from the Epiphany on January 5, **2025** to another Epiphany on January 4, **2026**! What will we do with this special Jubilee year? What might Mary do? She's a pretty good woman. She's a pretty good mother. She's had hard times along the way, but she always did good. Still does. What might St. Francis of Assisi do? What will we do this year? Just fun? A year off?

Mary never thought of herself as having something really big to do, but when the Holy Spirit and an encouraging angel visited her, she became something really significant. She spent years in her quiet way of changing the way of the world in which we live. It still needs her help. We all need to keep working with her and with Christ in today's world. She brought him into our world and together they have given themselves to 'saving us' and 'the world'. We too are responsible.

God created not just you and me but our planet, indeed the Universe we are now exploring seriously. As Moses told us long ago, God is for us. He assured us that God holds out blessings for us. Like Mary in her time, we have to accept our situation and act on it if we are to make it a better world.

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.

A good way to start our 2025 global New Year is to imitate Mary, Queen of the Universe and Queen of Peace, by committing ourselves and others, like St. Francis, to intensify our Care for Our Common Home. We are to love the whole human race as our family and so together care for Mother Earth, every nation and every creature.

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

When nature is viewed solely as a source of profit and gain, this has serious consequences for society. This vision of "might is right" has engendered immense inequality, injustice and acts of violence against the majority of humanity, since resources end up in the hands of the first comer or the most powerful: the winner all. (#82)

We can hardly consider ourselves to be fully loving if we disregard any aspect of reality: "Peace, justice, and *the preservation of creation* are three absolutely interconnected themes. They cannot be separated and treated individually without once again falling into reductionism." [The Bishops of the Dominican Republic] (#92) (italics added)

The originally harmonious relationship between human beings and nature became conflictual (cf. Gen 3:17-19). ... The harmony which Saint Francis of Assisi experienced with all creatures was seen as a healing of that rupture. (#66) Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically.... He was particularly concerned for God's creation and for the poor and outcast. He loved, and was deeply loved for his joy, his generous self-giving, his openheartedness.... He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace. (#10)

In calling to mind the figure of Saint Francis of Assisi, we come to realize that a healthy relationship with creation is one dimension of overall personal conversion, which entails the recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures, and leads to ... desire to change. (#218)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That you will help others to be Mother Earth savers, caring for our climate and making it better, we pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That all people will grow in awe and reverence for God's creation, knowing fully that our Creator is ever present and entrusting our Common Home to us, we pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

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