

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 Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle C (9 February 2025)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Isaiah 6 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"
"Here I am," I said; "send me!"

1 Corinthians 15 I am the least of the apostles, not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

Luke 5 When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him

† Comments for the Day:

In *The Lord of the Rings*, there is a dramatic moment when the gathered representatives of the different races face the challenge: Who will carry the ring? As all look at one another in consternation, the smallest among them, Frodo Baggins, offers to carry the ring and the hopes of the united races into unknown dangers. Like the call of Isaiah ("Whom shall I send?") in the first reading, Paul, "the least of the apostles," in the second, and the justice and hope of Noah in the *Laudato Sí* passage below, Frodo can accept the challenge despite his fear.

In an era when people worship self-expression and autonomy, wealth, and success, Christians are called to take risks and witness faith in God that is expressed in our love for one another and for creation with which God has gifted us. It is easy to feel overwhelmed and unprepared, especially with information overload and the digital landscape. However, we recall the apostles, simple craftsmen, and fishermen who met the challenge before them because God sustained them in their callings. "When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him."

Laudato Sí points to how God calls our generation to live more simply, that "less is more," and care for the poor and creation, often in the face of what seem to be relentless trends to the contrary. But we, too, can trust that our witness to the truth will accomplish its end if this is the work God calls us to.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

Furthermore, when media and the digital world become omnipresent, their influence can stop people from learning how to live wisely, to think deeply and to love generously. In this context, the great sages of the past run the risk of going unheard amid the noise and distractions of an information overload. Efforts need to be made to help these media become sources of new cultural progress for humanity and not a threat to our deepest riches. (#47)

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.

Although "the wickedness of man was great in the earth" (Gen 6:5) and the Lord "was sorry that he had made man on the earth" (Gen 6:6), nonetheless, through Noah, who remained innocent and just, God decided to open a path of salvation. In this way he gave humanity the chance of a new beginning. All it takes is one good person to restore hope! (#71)

Nature is usually seen as a system which can be studied, understood and controlled, whereas creation can only be understood as a gift from the outstretched hand of the Father of all, and as a reality illuminated by the love which calls us together into universal communion. (#76)

Our difficulty in taking up this challenge seriously has much to do with an ethical and cultural decline which has accompanied the deterioration of the environment. Men and women of our postmodern world run the risk of rampant individualism, and many problems of society are connected with today's self-centred culture of instant gratification. We see this in the crisis of family and social ties and the difficulties of recognizing the other. . . Furthermore, our inability to think seriously about future generations is linked to our inability to broaden the scope of our present interests and to give consideration to those who remain excluded from development. (#162)

Christian spirituality proposes an alternative understanding of the quality of life, and encourages a prophetic and contemplative lifestyle, one capable of deep enjoyment free of the obsession with consumption. We need to take up an ancient lesson, found in different religious traditions and also in the Bible. It is the conviction that "less is more." (#222)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: For a deeper awareness of God's grace working within us, and the challenges to which it continuously calls us, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That, like the apostles, we might move beyond our fears, take risks, and respond to the promptings of the Spirit to care for the earth, our common home, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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