

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle C (16 February 2025)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Jeremiah 17 Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord. He is like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream.

Psalms 1 He is like a tree planted near running water; that yields its fruit in due season.

Luke 6 Jesus came down with the Twelve and stood on a stretch of level ground with a great crowd of his disciples...And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said, "Blessed are you..."

† Comments for the Day:

Several years ago, I needed to travel to Australia to work in Justice and Peace. While there, I visited a Franciscan House of Prayer, and was struck at the area's aridity. As I prepared to leave, one of the friars took out a box of pictures, and I looked through them with little enthusiasm. However, I came upon two photos of the Center, both taken from the same vantage point but in different seasons: the rainy and dry seasons. The remarkable difference showed how the rain transformed the landscape, bringing forth green and many-colored flowers.

I presume the passages of the green earth and rivers from *Jeremiah* and Psalm 1 are based on a similar experience. The presence of God in our lives brings forth life, color, and vibrancy! The readings also note the sharp contrast between the trusting and the wicked, the cursed and the blessed. If we live long enough, however, we come to understand that we carry that contrast within ourselves. It is important that we understand that this struggle is a part of being human and that we need God's grace to be able to choose life and to forgive ourselves when we fail. In the gospel, Luke presents the charter of life for the followers of Jesus. If we think about our "normal" approach to the Christian life, much of our reflection revolves around the *Ten Commandments*: think about our typical preparation for the sacrament of Reconciliation. The commandments speak about what we should NOT do; the Beatitudes present a way of life modeled on that of Jesus, where love reigns supreme, and we are called to be there for our sisters and brothers and all of God's good creation.

† Passages from *Laudato Sí* to Note:

We all know that it is not possible to sustain the present level of consumption in developed countries and wealthier sectors of society, where the habit of wasting and discarding has reached

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a group of male and female religious, priests, and lay people dedicated to serving the Church.

unprecedented levels. The exploitation of the planet has already exceeded acceptable limits and we still have not solved the problem of poverty. (#27)

Some studies warn that an acute water shortage may occur within a few decades unless urgent action is taken. The environmental repercussions could affect billions of people; it is also conceivable that the control of water by large multinational businesses may become a major source of conflict in this century. (#31)

Nowadays, for example, we are conscious of the disproportionate and unruly growth of many cities, which have become unhealthy to live in, not only because of pollution caused by toxic emissions but also as a result of urban chaos, poor transportation, and visual pollution and noise. Many cities are huge, inefficient structures, excessively wasteful of energy and water. Neighbourhoods, even those recently built, are congested, chaotic and lacking in sufficient green space. We were not meant to be inundated by cement, asphalt, glass and metal, and deprived of physical contact with nature. (#44)

Yet all is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start, despite their mental and social conditioning. We are able to take an honest look at ourselves, to acknowledge our deep dissatisfaction, and to embark on new paths to authentic freedom. No system can completely suppress our openness to what is good, true and beautiful, or our God-given ability to respond to his grace deep in our hearts. I appeal to everyone throughout the world not to forget this dignity which is ours. No one has the right to take it from us. (#205)

God, who calls us to generous commitment and to give him our all, offers us the light and the strength needed to continue on our way. In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone, for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. *Praise be to him!* (#245)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we meditate on the Beatitudes and learn to model our lives on that of Jesus, we pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That we drink deeply of the life-sustaining waters of our loving God, which give us the ability to look beyond our immediate concerns to the needs of all people and living beings, and our common home, we pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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