

# 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 Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle C

March 2, 2025

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**[Sirach 17]:** The fruit of a tree shows the care it has had; so do a man's speech disclose the bent of his mind.

**[Psalm 92]:** They shall bear fruit even in old age;...Declaring how just is the Lord, my Rock in whom there is not wrong.

**[1 Corinthians 15]:** Be steadfast and enduring, my beloved brothers, fully engaged in the work of the Lord. You know that your toil is not in vain.

**[Luke 6:]** Why look at the speck in your brother's eye when you miss the plank in your own?"

**Comments for the Day:** Today's scripture readings remind us that we often criticize others but are blind to our own shortcomings. We go about our lives ignorant of our own failure to love and respect others. Often our criticisms are efforts to feel superior to the people around us. It is when we are put to the test and fail that we can gain a measure of humility. Most people in the developed world turn a blind eye to what is happening to the Earth, our common home, as they live in ignorance of the devastation that results from their lifestyle of buying consumer goods.

In Lent the Church calls us to observe a time of sobriety and mindfulness. This austerity is seen in St. Paul's call to be "fully engaged in the work of the Lord." That includes increasing our awareness of people, things, and activities in our lives that come between sobriety and mindfulness. This includes limiting overindulgence in consumer goods or recreation that comes between us, distracting us. Instead, we can focus on prayer or helping people who are without shelter, jobs, food, or medical help. In these ways we are doing the work of the Lord.

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

"Any approach to an integral ecology...needs to take account of the value of labour, as St. John Paul II wisely noted in his Encyclical *Laborum Exercens* (§124). According to the biblical account of creation, God placed man and woman in the garden he had created (cf. *Gen: 2-15*) not to only preserve it ("keep") but also to make it fruitful ("till"). Labourers and craftsmen thus "maintain the fabric of the world" (*Sir 38:34*). Developing the created world in a prudent way is the best way...". "A consumerist vision of human beings, encouraged by the mechanisms of today's globalized economy, has a levelling effect on cultures, diminishing the immense variety

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

which is the heritage of all humanity. Attempts to resolve all problems through uniform regulations or technical interventions can lead to overlooking the local problems which demand the active participation of all members of the community. ... As life in the world are dynamic realities, so our care for the world must be flexible and dynamic. Merely technical solutions run the risk of addressing symptoms and not the more serious underlying problems. There is a need to respect the rights of people and cultures...” (#144)

We are convinced that “man is the source, the focus and the aim of all economic and social life. Nonetheless, once our human capacity for contemplation and reverence is impaired, it becomes easy for the meaning of work to be misunderstood. We need to remember that men and women have “the capacity to improve their lot, to further their moral growth and to develop their spiritual endowments. Work should be the setting for this rich personal growth where many aspects of life enter into play: creativity, planning for the future, developing our talents, living out their values, relating to others, giving glory to God. It follows that, in today’s global society, it is essential that “we continue to prioritize the goal of access to steady employment for everyone, no matter the limited interests of business and dubious economic reasoning. (#127)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That we may honor all those whose life’s work is to care for the marvelous parks and recreation areas that allow us access to the wonders of God’s creation... , let us pray to the Lord

...

**Option 2:** That those innovators and creators of new technologies develop them in a manner that reverences God’s creation... , 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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