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 Second Sunday of Easter, Cycle C (April 27, 2025)

Homily Helps

† **Scripture Passages to Note:**

Psalm 118: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting**.**

John 20: Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.

Comments for the Day:

"This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it." This phrase from today's Responsorial Psalm is so familiar to us during this Easter season that we might simply repeat it without savoring its message.

Psalm 118 serves as a powerful reminder to always express gratitude to God, no matter the circumstances, because God's goodness and love are unwavering and everlasting, offering a constant source of hope and strength even in the face of challenges; it's a call to actively acknowledge and celebrate God's faithfulness in our lives. God's love is steadfast and never-ending, providing comfort and security even during difficult times.

Amid the ordinary hustle and bustle of daily life, we can easily pass up the opportunity to take time to actively reflect on the blessings in your life, both big and small, and express thanks to God for them. The light of day, the mist and the dew, the song of the birds, a greeting between neighbors, a seat on the bus, the food we enjoy. All these are manifestations of God's love and mercy, the divine care for each and all of us.

Unfortunately, not only do we take these and other signs of God's goodness for granted, but many times we also deny them to others, either through indifference or choosing to ignore that so many others are in need. God shares so generously with us and will love us even if we don't recognize or respond to his love. But we have acquired the habit of thinking it best to store up and accumulate what God has created and given for all – "Just in case…" – out of a need for security.

In whom do we place our trust? On whom do we rely for mercy? The phrase on our dollar bill incongruously indicates that it is, "In God we trust." At the same time, we store up those dollars and invest them in order to produce more and "assure" us security in the face of disaster.

While the Gospel calls us to be wise and prudent, that call is within the context of a loving and merciful God, who empties himself, to the last drop of blood, for our benefit. God has placed his

trust in us, our free will to choose to be merciful as God is merciful. A sign of our misplaced trust are the many storage bins and buildings which have appeared on the landscape, at the same time as the number of homeless and malnourished have multiplied exponentially.

Even when facing challenges, maintain a grateful attitude by recognizing God's presence and faithfulness in the midst of struggles. Today we celebrate Mercy Sunday, in recognition of God's unending and undeserved mercy poured out on behalf of each one and all of us.

The best way to demonstrate our gratitude for this abiding gift is to imitate the giver and share freely and mercifully with those around us, without counting the cost. A solid step in the right direction would be to express appreciation to those around you, mirroring God's love by extending gratitude to God, and to others for the gift of our common home and the call to recognize all as part of God's family.

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

These situations have caused sister earth, along with all the abandoned of our world, to cry out, pleading that we take another course. Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years. (53)

Ecological culture cannot be reduced to a series of urgent and partial responses to the immediate problems of pollution, environmental decay and the depletion of natural resources. There needs to be a distinctive way of looking at things, a way of thinking, policies, an educational programme, a life style and a spirituality which together generate resistance to the assault of the technocratic paradigm. (111)

Modernity has been marked by an excessive anthropocentrism which today, under another guise, continues to stand in the way of shared understanding and of any effort to strengthen social bonds.…our "dominion" over the universe should be understood more properly in the sense of responsible stewardship. (116)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That our eyes be opened to the negative consequences of our arrogance, particularly in our relationship with creation, and that we might embrace God's healing power.

Option 2: That with St. Thomas we might acknowledge the foolishness of our ways of thinking, particularly regarding our consumptive lifestyles, and believe in God's gracious promise of new life.

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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