

Homily Helps and Petitions for the Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle C (July 6, 2025)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Isaiah 66: Oh, that you may suck fully of the milk of [Jerusalem's] comfort, that you may nurse with delight at her abundant breasts!

Psalms 66: Let all on earth worship and sing praise to you, sing praise to your name!

Galatians 6: All that matters is that one is created anew . . . let no man trouble me, for I bear the brand marks of Jesus in my body.

Luke 10: He said to them: "The harvest is rich but the workers are few; therefore ask the harvest-master to send workers to the harvest. . . . Into whatever city you go, after they welcome you, eat what they set before you, and cure the sick there. Say to them, 'The reign of God is at hand.'"

† Comments for the Day:

When Jesus sends out the seventy-two to "every town and place he intended to visit," he prefigures his intention to send an ever-multiplying number of missionary disciples to bring the good news of the gospel to every place on earth. This means that we too are among those who are sent! As we go, we are asked to lift our eyes from our worries about what to possess and how to fill our stomachs, and instead to place our attention fully on participating in the mission of sharing the good news in every place and with every creature. As Pope Francis taught in both word and example, this is where true joy and peace are found.

As Isaiah describes the earthy abundance that God desires to pour out upon us and all creatures, he provides us with a fuller vision of what is meant by the "good news." It is a vision of fully embodied delight like that of a peaceful infant sucking on its mother's breast. Jerusalem, both an earthly city and the city of God, is to be the hearth from which divine life pours forth. Not only will our bodies flourish like the grass, but the bodies of every living creature will thrive as divine energy flows through every crack and cranny of creation. This is the good news; this is what God intends, and we are meant to embody and proclaim it with all that we are.

But scripture will not allow us to get so carried away by this lofty vision that we separate ourselves from the often-harsh conditions within which this good news will have to be proclaimed. In Galatians, Paul says that he bears the "brand marks" of Jesus in his body because of what he has had to endure as a missionary disciple. Anyone who has ever worked the land –

even just caring for a small back yard or garden plot – knows that blight and depredation are included in the ecological cycles of life, and that our labor to bring forth beautiful flowers or tasty vegetables will at times feel fruitless. Jesus did not hesitate to enter fully into all these cycles of life, including their most difficult aspects. His cross is at the very center of our faith. Even while bearing our own version of the cross, we celebrate Paul’s encouraging words: “All that matters is that we are created anew.”

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

The ultimate destiny of the universe is in the fullness of God, which has already been attained by the risen Christ, the measure of the maturity of all things. Here we can add yet another argument for rejecting every tyrannical and irresponsible domination of human beings over other creatures. The ultimate purpose of other creatures is not to be found in us. Rather, all creatures are moving forward with us and through us towards a common point of arrival, which is God, in that transcendent fullness where the risen Christ embraces and illumines all things. Human beings, endowed with intelligence and love, and drawn by the fullness of Christ, are called to lead all creatures back to their Creator. (83)

[Ecological conversion] entails a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures, but joined in a splendid universal communion. As believers, we do not look at the world from without but from within, conscious of the bonds with which the Father has linked us to all beings. By developing our individual, God-given capacities, an ecological conversion can inspire us to greater creativity and enthusiasm in resolving the world’s problems and in offering ourselves to God “as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable” (Rom 12:1). We do not understand our superiority as a reason for personal glory or irresponsible dominion, but rather as a different capacity which, in its turn, entails a serious responsibility stemming from our faith. (220)

Christian spirituality proposes a growth marked by moderation and the capacity to be happy with little. It is a return to that simplicity which allows us to stop and appreciate the small things, to be grateful for the opportunities which life affords us, to be spiritually detached from what we possess, and not to succumb to sadness for what we lack. (222)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we may seek to bring the good news of the gospel to all our encounters with people, places, and creatures, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That when we face opposition to our ecological advocacy or lifestyle, we may remember to join ourselves more closely to Christ and his cross, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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