

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle C (July 27, 2025)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Genesis 18: Suppose there were fifty innocent people in the city; would you wipe out the place, rather than spare it for the sake of the fifty innocent people within it? Far be it from you to do such a thing . . . Should not the judge of all the world act with justice?

Colossians 2: Even when you were dead in sin and your flesh was uncircumcised, God gave you new life in company with Christ.

Luke 11: I tell you, even though he does not get up and take care of the man because of friendship, he will find himself doing so because of his persistence and give him as much as he needs.

† Comments for the Day:

A strong theme in today's scriptures is persistence, rooted in trust that ultimately God truly desires abundant life for us and for all creation. In Genesis, Abraham calls upon God to focus on the few people in the sinful cities of Sodom and Gomorrah who live righteous lives rather than on the many who do not. His persistent petition is heard. We can learn important lessons both from Abraham's trust in God's love, and from God's willingness to forbear deserved destruction based on even a small glimmer of human goodness.

Such persistence is a much-needed virtue in the face of devastating climate change and other ecological catastrophes. Hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, floods, and many forms of pollution seem to increase every day. As individuals, we often feel we can do little to make a difference because the economic and cultural systems contributing to these disasters are so massive and dominating. Yet with a little digging, we can find many stories of individuals and groups whose dogged persistence in standing firm against corporate or governmental depredations have saved beloved landscapes. Just one example is the long fight of a coalition of Alaskan native tribes against the Ambler Road, a mining road that would profoundly alter the ecosystem in which tribal members have hunted and fished for countless generations.

The gospel reinforces the same theme. The key element to remember when we face opposition is that what is needed is not just an exercise of stubbornness, but deep trust that we are working alongside the One who lovingly created the earth and all its intricate, interconnected creatures and systems. Even though for a time the door of heaven seems closed, our God will not fail to respond to our persistent prayer and hard work.

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.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. At the global level, it is a complex system linked to many of the essential conditions for human life. A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system. . . . Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it. (23)

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. Yet we are called to be instruments of God our Father, so that our planet might be what he desired when he created it and correspond with his plan for peace, beauty and fullness. (53)

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! The biblical tradition clearly shows that this renewal entails recovering and respecting the rhythms inscribed in nature by the hand of the Creator. (71)

A change in lifestyle could bring healthy pressure to bear on those who wield political, economic and social power. This is what consumer movements accomplish by boycotting certain products. They prove successful in changing the way businesses operate, forcing them to consider their environmental footprint and their patterns of production. When social pressure affects their earnings, businesses clearly have to find ways to produce differently. This shows us the great need for a sense of social responsibility on the part of consumers. (206)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we may be strengthened in our resolve to persistently advocate for the health of habitats and ecosystems, let us pray to the Lord ...

Plain text, multiple lines indented

Option 2: That we may grow in trust that God is with us as we do our work of earth care, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

Visit our webpage and sign up to receive these resources delivered to your email inbox each month.