

Homily Helps and Petitions for the 18th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle C (August 3, 2025)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Ecclesiastes 1: What profit comes to anyone from all the toil and anxiety of heart with which they labored under the sun?

Luke 12: Take care to guard against all greed.

† Comments for the Day:

When was the last time you called someone, or someone called you a fool? Strong language can be very off-putting and challenging. The Gospel passage today tells the parable of the rich fool. How truly difficult it is to challenge someone out of love, rather than envy or hate.

The parable of the rich fool is addressed to us as a caution, calling for conversion, not condemnation. The Gospel points out the dangers of greed and self-centeredness highlighting the folly of accumulating wealth without considering its impact on others or the meaning of life beyond material possessions.

At the heart of the parable is an abundant harvest, God's plan for all of creation, not just a few. The rich fool's selfishness and indifference toward our common home serves to boost the value of responsibility: using our gifts and resources wisely, not for personal gain but for the good of the community and creation itself. Wouldn't the world be a better place if we all truly shared what God has given to us so freely for the benefit of all?

The rich man was so focused on his own well-being and accumulation of wealth that he failed to consider the needs of others or those of the planet, our common home. Today's Scripture encourages us to open our minds and hearts to those who think differently in order to invite them to recognize the gifts we are showered with, rather than thinking we can earn, merit or deserve God's love.

This Jubilee year of hope reminds us of the urgent need for a radical change in the conduct of humanity called for by pope Francis: the misuse of creation begins when we no longer recognize any higher instance than ourselves, when we see nothing else but ourselves. As followers of Christ we are called to accept the world as a sacrament of communion, as a way of sharing with God and our neighbors on a global scale.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

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The earth now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. (2)

Whether believers or not, we are agreed today that the earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone. For believers, this becomes a question of fidelity to the Creator, since God created the world for everyone. The principle of the subordination of private property to the universal destination of goods, and thus the right of everyone to their use, is a golden rule of social conduct and “the first principle of the whole ethical and social order”. The Christian tradition has never recognized the right to private property as absolute or inviolable, and has stressed the social purpose of all forms of private property. (93)

The natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone. If we make something our own, it is only to administer it for the good of all. If we do not, we burden our consciences with the weight of having denied the existence of others. (95)

When people become self-centered and self-enclosed, their greed increases. The emptier a person’s heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume. It becomes almost impossible to accept the limits imposed by reality. In this horizon, a genuine sense of the common good also disappears. (204)

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. (205)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That God may grant us an understanding heart so that we recognize how interdependent we humans are with all of Earth's community of life, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That God may enlighten all to discover the great treasure of Catholic social teaching in order to use it as a tool to transform the face of the earth, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

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

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