

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 Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C (August 24, 2025)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Isaiah 66: I know their works and their thoughts, and I come to gather nations of every language.

Luke 13: And people will come from the east and from the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.

Comments for the Day:

God accomplishes remarkable deeds through people who some might consider to be worth less, disposable or in excess. When we are raised to believe that we each must lift our own weight, individually, isolated from others, we are unknowingly separating ourselves from God's design that we all truly are part of one human family, called to care for our one common home.

Pope Benedict reminded us of that when he so clearly stated: The misuse of creation begins when we no longer recognize any higher instance than ourselves, when we see nothing else but ourselves. To that thought, Pope Francis added: Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise. Francis proceeded to reframe the intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet, the conviction that everything in the world is connected, critiquing new paradigms and forms of power.

We live in a society which values possessions more than our common humanity. We look down on those who have less, earn less, or contribute less, while God chose to reach out in a special way to gather in and welcome wholeheartedly those who have been left out of the benefits and are considered worthless by a materialistic society. God did this from the beginning and continues to do it even now through us if we truly live a Christian lifestyle.

Our worth does not depend upon what we possess but derives from who we are: members of the family of God, the beloved community. As Pope Leo XIV said in the homily of his inaugural Mass in St. Peter's square: Not by closing ourselves off in our small groups, nor feeling superior to the world, we are called to offer God's love to everyone, in order to achieve that unity which does not cancel out differences but values the personal history of each person and the social and religious culture of every people. Brothers and sisters, this is the hour for love! The heart of the Gospel is the love of God that makes us brothers and sisters.

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:**

These statements of the Popes echo the reflections of numerous scientists, philosophers, theologians and civic groups, all of which have enriched the Church's thinking on these questions. Outside the Catholic Church, other Churches and Christian communities – and other religions as well – have expressed deep concern and offered valuable reflections on issues which all of us find disturbing. (7)

We must forcefully reject the notion that our being created in God's image and given dominion over the earth justifies absolute domination over other creatures...Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations. (67)

There are certain environmental issues where it is not easy to achieve a broad consensus. Here I would state once more that the Church does not presume to settle scientific questions or to replace politics. But I am concerned to encourage an honest and open debate so that particular interests or ideologies will not prejudice the common good. (188)

Political institutions and various other social groups are also entrusted in helping to raise people's awareness. (214)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we open ourselves to recognize in each and every face that of a sister or brother, members of the one human family, regardless of how they might challenge our points of view, let us pray to the Lord.

Option 2: The we might join with honest seekers of truth, regardless of who they might be, so that together we can "care for our common home," let us pray to the Lord.

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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