



## Homily Helps and Petitions for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B (September 7, 2025)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Wisdom 9:** The deliberations of mortals are timid, unsure are our plans. ... You had given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high? Thus were the paths of those on earth made straight.

**Psalm 90:** In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge. ... Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart.

**Philemon 9:** ... My child Onesimus [means 'useful'], ... no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a brother.

**Luke 14:** "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ... Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise ... the onlookers should laugh. ... Anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."

#### † Comments for the Day:

In today's Gospel Jesus told his disciples they had to let go of a lot of things they were attached to so they would be willing to carry their cross and go forward with him. He wanted them to understand the cost of discipleship.

Today's reading from the book of Wisdom reminds us that we tend to be "unsure of our plans." In fact, we often are too comfortable with the way things are, and just watch things happen - without doing anything that involves lifting our cross, e.g. expressing our Christian beliefs. However, through the scriptures and enlightened by the Holy Spirit, our Creator shows us how to walk the straight paths on earth. God intends us to travel with him along such paths and calls us to volunteer and get on with Jesus' mission. But there is a cost to being his disciple. For example - we might be accused of "being too political" rather than simply following the teaching of Jesus. Are we willing to pay the price? What cross are we asked to bear as we follow Jesus?

These teachings have special meaning during the September weeks when, again this year, Pope Leo XIV has asked us to observe a "Season of Creation" from September 1 - October 4. Just as the Church observes other special periods of time - e.g. Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter time, Pope Leo XIV is calling us to focus on God's creation. Mother Earth, our planet, our common home is sinking into bad shape and needs the kind of healing Jesus did on his journey to Jerusalem. As today's Gospel puts it at the end, we must "lift our cross" among other things by "renouncing all our possessions" that are contributing to earth's health problems. They're

making us sick and killing a lot of earth's vitality. Future generations are going to be hurt the most.

There are many ways to get involved in the Season of Creation. The Vatican is encouraging us to get involved in such projects as the different Jubilees being celebrated especially the jubilee of justice and that of migrants, Laudato Si Movement, our U.S. Catholic Climate Covenant, the efforts of religious communities, especially women's communities, etc. They get what's happening. Too many of us don't. Our parishes and dioceses need to kick in and do for our common home what is needed. It's the call of our Creator in these times, in this special Season of Creation.

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

Everything is interconnected. ... It follows that the fragmentation of knowledge and the isolation of bits of information can actually become a form of ignorance, unless they are integrated into a broader vision of reality. (#138)

When we speak of the 'environment', what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and the society that lives in it. ... Recognizing the reasons why a given area is polluted requires a study of the workings of society, its economy, its behavior patterns and the ways it grasps reality. ... It is essential to seek comprehensive solutions. ... (#139)

We do not face two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and, at the same time, protecting nature. (#139)

Once people become conscious of this, many people realize that we live and act on the basis of a reality that has previously been given to us that precedes our existence and our abilities. (#140)  
We urgently need a humanism capable of bringing together the different fields of knowledge, including economics, in the service of a more integral and integrating vision. (#141)

Authentic development includes efforts to bring about an integral improvement in the quality of human life. ... This entails considering the setting in which people live their lives. ... If close and warm relationships develop, if communities are created, if the limitations of the environment are compensated for in the interior of each person who feels held within a network of solidarity and belonging, ... any place can turn from being a hell on earth into the setting for a dignified life. (#148)

### **Related Prayers of the Faithful**

**Option 1:** That our commitment to Jesus Christ and his mission as we face the Climate Crisis always takes precedence over our particular political leanings or ideologies, let us pray to the Lord....

**Option 2:** That as the school year begins, parents, teachers, and catechists inspire young people to understand that everything is interconnected: earth, human life, plants, and animals, let us pray to the Lord....

### **Further Resources**

**Feedback:** [info@catholicclimatecovenant.org](mailto:info@catholicclimatecovenant.org)