

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Helps and Petitions for the 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B (September 28, 2025)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Amos 6:** Woe to the complacent in Zion! Lying upon beds of ivory, stretched comfortably on their couches, they eat lambs taken from the flock, and calves from the stall!

**Psalms 146:** Blessed he who keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets captives free. The LORD protects strangers.

**1 Timothy 6:** But you, man of God, pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness.

**Luke 16:** There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table.

#### † Comments for the Day:

On this fourth Sunday of this year's Season of Creation, in our first reading, our Creator decries the lack of solidarity and civic friendship among the people of prophet Amos's time. Through the prophet Amos, God laments the dearth of what Pope Francis describes as "social love" in today's world. Those who live in opulence and complacency, God says, will be the first ones to suffer exile.

Right from the beginning, today's Gospel parable presents a striking reversal of what we typically expect in our society. A rich man remains nameless while Lazarus, a poor man, is named. What is the unforgivable sin of the rich man? It is his failure to notice the abject poverty and desperation of the person lying at his very door. Because of his indifference to the cry of the poor, the rich man's own plea for mercy goes unanswered.

How does this parable play out in the context of our lives today? For us, the Lazarus person lying at the door of our country might be an environmental refugee from Haiti, Central America, the Middle East, or Sub-Saharan Africa. It might be someone in our own country fleeing droughts, famine, and destructive floods exacerbated by climate change such as we have recently seen in rising temperatures and heatwaves. Are we ourselves complacent in the face of the forces that bring desperately needy people to our U.S. doorsteps, maybe to our own community, even our own house?

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:

Our United States bishops have cautioned that greater attention must be given to "the needs of the poor, the weak and the vulnerable, in a debate often dominated by more powerful interests". We need to strengthen our conviction that we are one single human family. There are no frontiers or barriers, political or social, behind which we can hide, still less is there room for the globalization of indifference. (#52)

Many of the poor live in areas particularly affected by phenomena related to warming. ... For example, changes in climate ... lead them to migrate; this in turn affects the livelihood of the poor, who are then forced to leave their homes, with great uncertainty for their future and that of their children. There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation. They are not recognized by international conventions as refugees; they bear the loss of the lives they have left behind, without enjoying any legal protection whatsoever. Sadly, there is widespread indifference to such suffering. (#25)

Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world. Love for society and commitment to the common good are outstanding expressions of a charity. ... Social love is the key to authentic development: "In order to make society more human, more worthy of the human person, love in social life – political, economic and cultural – must be given renewed value, becoming the constant and highest norm for all activity". (#231)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That God may strengthen our resolve to overcome our climate crisis complacency so we will respond with mercy and solidarity to those fleeing to the safety of our doors, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That Pope Francis and our U.S. bishops will inspire all of us to reject indifference and instead act with mercy and social love towards the poor and vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord....

### Further Resources

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