

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 Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome (November 9, 2025)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Ezekiel 47: He said to me, “This water flows out into the eastern district, runs down into the Arabah and empties into the polluted waters of the sea to freshen them. Wherever it flows, the river teems with every kind of living creature; fish will abound. Where these waters flow they refresh; everything lives where the river goes. Along each bank of the river every kind of fruit tree will grow; their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail.

Psalms 46: Come and see the works of the LORD, who has done fearsome deeds on earth.

1 Corinthians: Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

John 2: Jesus said to them, “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

† Comments for the Day:

This feast celebrates the firm establishment of Christianity in the center of the Roman Empire, which at the time understood itself as the ruler of the world. The building, the Basilica of St. John Lateran, symbolized Christ’s global reign. We need symbols – and we also need to be able to see beyond them to the deeper reality that they represent. In the gospel for today Jesus explicitly says that it is his body that is the true temple. Moreover, this body is not confined only to his limited historical presence, because it has passed over into the resurrection and thus has become eternally present in all times and places.

But it is the text from Ezekiel that beautifully expresses what this means for our care for creation. The prophet describes how water streams out from the temple and nurtures abundant life wherever it flows. This water counteracts pollution and provides all creatures with both food and healing. Ezekiel celebrates the fact that “Where these waters flow they refresh; everything lives where the river goes.” The living water that flows from the temple of Christ’s body is meant to bring enlivenment and flourishing to the entire Earth community.

In case this does not make our own responsibility clear enough, 1 Corinthians states explicitly that we too are God’s temples. Since we are built on the foundation of the temple that is Christ’s body, the abundant life that flows through Christ should flow through us, too. We are meant to

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.

employ all our physical, intellectual, and spiritual gifts to counteract pollution and to ensure that abundant food and healing are available to all those who live on Earth. Very concretely, this means working against climate change and for the health of both local and global ecosystems. This is among the most important works of the Lord in our time!

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

In the Christian understanding of the world, the destiny of all creation is bound up with the mystery of Christ, present from the beginning: “All things have been created through him and for him” (Col 1:16). The prologue of the Gospel of John (1:1-18) reveals Christ’s creative work as the Divine Word (Logos). But then, unexpectedly, the prologue goes on to say that this same Word “became flesh” (Jn 1:14). One Person of the Trinity entered into the created cosmos, throwing in his lot with it, even to the cross. From the beginning of the world, but particularly through the incarnation, the mystery of Christ is at work in a hidden manner in the natural world as a whole, without thereby impinging on its autonomy. (99)

Our body itself establishes us in a direct relationship with the environment and with other living beings. The acceptance of our bodies as God’s gift is vital for welcoming and accepting the entire world as a gift from the Father and our common home. (155)

“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”. In this framework, along with the importance of little everyday gestures, social love moves us to devise larger strategies to halt environmental degradation and to encourage a “culture of care” which permeates all of society. When we feel that God is calling us to intervene with others in these social dynamics, we should realize that this too is part of our spirituality, which is an exercise of charity and, as such, matures and sanctifies us. (231)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we may recognize our bodies as temples of God through which God intends healing for all creation to flow, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That church buildings and communities may become centers of ecological education and 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.