

Homily Helps and Petitions for the 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (February 15, 2026)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Sirach 15: Whichever he chooses shall be given him

Psalms 119: Give me discernment, that I may observe your law

1 Corinthians 2: We speak God’s wisdom, mysterious, hidden

Matthew 5: “You shall not kill”

† Comments for the Day:

Choices matter and can have unintended consequences. Sirach urges us to make choices, both personal and collective, that lead to life rather than death. In making such choices, we should be aware of hidden biases in our cultural norms and the trap of prioritizing efficiency and quick results. Instead, we should be guided by God's wisdom. This is the meaning of discernment expressed in Psalm 119. What could this mean in today's world?

In making choices, Paul reminds the Corinthians that Christ crucified is our model. Christ reveals God’s hidden wisdom. What “God has revealed to us through the Spirit” begins with Christ and the transforming power of suffering. We become aware of our capacity to know God’s will and to choose the good, no matter the cost.

“Thou shalt not kill.” In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus presents his commentary on God’s law and commands. The phrase “Thou shalt not kill” does not appear in the Hebrew Scriptures. Why did Jesus make this statement? Was it a common belief of his time? Maybe we should pause and reflect on the cruelty, brutality, and death caused by violence in society today.

Saint John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis have all emphasized that, in their commitment to life, Christians should care for God's creation and be aware of the culture of death. They call us to recognize that the poor, the most vulnerable, and the yet-to-be-born are affected by environmental degradation, including climate change. This call echoed in *Laudato Si'*, where Pope Francis urges us to choose life. We must stand up not only for the unborn, but also for what sustains all life: clean air and water, and the healthy ecosystems of "our common home." How are we responding to this call to life? In what local or national initiatives can we participate to make a positive difference?

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

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. That is why the New Zealand bishops asked what the commandment “Thou shalt not kill” means when “twenty percent of the world’s population consumes resources at a rate that robs the poor nations and future generations of what they need to survive.” (95)

Never has humanity had such power over itself, yet nothing ensures that it will be used wisely, particularly when we consider how it is currently being used. We need but think of the nuclear bombs dropped in the middle of the twentieth century, or the array of technology which Nazism, Communism and other totalitarian regimes have employed to kill millions of people, to say nothing of the increasingly deadly arsenal of weapons available for modern warfare. In whose hands does all this power lie, or will it eventually end up? It is extremely risky for a small part of humanity to have it. (104)

We take [ecosystems] into account not only to determine how best to use them, but also because they have an intrinsic value independent of their usefulness. Each organism, as a creature of God, is good and admirable in itself; the same is true of the harmonious ensemble of organisms existing in a defined space and functioning as a system. Although we are often not aware of it, we depend on these larger systems for our own existence. (140)

In the face of the so-called culture of death, the family is the heart of the culture of life”.^[149] In the family we first learn how to show love and respect for life; we are taught the proper use of things, order and cleanliness, respect for the local ecosystem and care for all creatures. (213)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: For the Church, that her words and actions may inspire people around the world to choose life by caring for the unborn, the poor, and refugees, while also safeguarding God's creation that sustains all life, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: For ourselves, our families and friends, that God may give us the wisdom and courage to choose and defend the dignity of every human life and stand up to racism, prejudice, and destruction of earth, our common home, 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.