

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the 11th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (June 14, 2026)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Ez 19: If you hearken to my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my special possession, dearer to me than all other people, though all the earth is mine.

Ps 100: We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Romans 5: But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

Matthew 9: As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.

† Comments for the Day:

In the Old Testament reading from Exodus, the Israelites have come to the desert of Sinai and pitched camp while Moses goes up the mountain to converse with God. God reveals to Moses that he wishes to have a special, covenantal relationship with the Jewish people. A covenant is a mutual agreement, a uniting or coming together of desires. It is a two-way street, so to speak. In this covenantal relationship, God reaches out first with a loving invitation and awaits for the free response of the Israelites.

As human beings, our response to God's covenantal invitation is often mixed, just as it was for the Israelites. Sometimes we embrace our relationship with him, and sometimes we struggle with it by setting up false idols. The Israelites went astray by worshipping the molten calf. We can ask ourselves: How do we go astray today? Is our "molten calf" on the false altar of consumerism, rapidification, and the throwaway culture? God kept the Israelites in the desert only so that they could deepen their commitment and love. What are the deserts in which we are entrapped today? Are we caught in the desert of isolation to which the technocratic paradigm has driven us? The desert of self-focus or indifference to the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth?

In the gospel from Matthew, Christ summons his apostles and sends them out to proclaim the Gospel, to remind the "lost sheep" that God is real and the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Our response to God's offering of a covenantal relationship with us should be to welcome God into our lives and to be willing to go out to the whole world to put our faith into practice. In response to the great gift given to us, through the reconciliation won by Christ on the cross, we are called

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a group of male and female religious, priests, and lay people dedicated to serving the Church.

to reciprocate by curing the sick, raising the dead, cleansing lepers, and driving out demons. In response to this call today, how are we working to heal the polluted earth, to bring new life to degraded ecosystems and neglected human communities, to embrace marginalized groups and environments, and to defeat the demons of selfishness, consumerism, and lack of faith in God?

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

. . . The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she “groans in travail” (*Rom 8:22*). (#2)

“The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast”. For this reason, the ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion. . . . [W]hat they all need is an “ecological conversion”, whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience. (#217)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we rejoice in our covenantal relationship with the Lord and put it into practice in the way we reach out to care for the earth and the poor, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That we take time to reflect and come to a deeper awareness of our interior deserts so that we might care better for the exterior deserts in the world, let us pray to the Lord...

Bulletin Notice

Care for Creation:

In today's readings, God expresses his wish to enter into a covenantal relationship with us, yet he awaits our response. Are we willing to be laborers for his harvest by making our faith known and obeying its demands to care for the poor and the earth? Are we willing to step out and cure the sick or cleanse lepers by listening to the groaning of creation and working to heal its ills, or by reaching out to those persons suffering with material or spiritual “pollution”? In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis exhorts us to embark upon ecological conversion and to encourage others to do the same:

[www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/ documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html). For more information, see: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org>

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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