

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (July 5, 2026)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Zechariah 9: ...the warrior's bow shall be banished, and he shall proclaim peace to the nations.

Psalms 145: Let all your works give you thanks, O Lord, and let your faithful ones bless you.

Romans 8: You are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit-

Matthew 11: 25-30: ...although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones.

† Comments for the Day:

Cyrus king of the Persian Empire freed the Israelite captives in Babylon in 539 BCE. As the exiles come home, the prophet Zechariah's envisions a just and humble savior who will do away with violence and warfare. Paul writes about a different kind of warfare, namely, the struggle between flesh and spirit. This does not mean that he is against our bodies which are a gift from God. Rather, Paul uses "flesh" to mean hate, violence, egotism, envy, and "spirit" to mean following Jesus' teachings about peace and love of neighbor. Our gospel reading today centers on the clash between Jesus and the Pharisees, who laid down the burden of countless rules and regulations on people. The Pharisees did not have the wisdom to see that the message of Jesus is about love for all people, freedom and closeness to God which is true religion.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

"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. In *Laudato Si'*, 231 Pope Francis references Benedict XVI's *Caritas in Veritate*, 2009: "...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)

It is foreseeable that, once certain resources have been depleted, the scene will be set for new wars, albeit under the guise of noble claims. War always does grave harm to the environment and to the cultural riches of peoples, risks which are magnified when one considers nuclear arms and biological weapons. Politics must pay greater attention to foreseeing new conflicts and

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.

addressing the causes which lead to them. But powerful financial interests prove most resistant to this effort, and political planning tends to lack breadth of vision. (57)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That the nations of the world learn to live in peace, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That the coming generations learn to live ecologically, let us pray to the Lord ...

Again, address integral faith, ecology, and care for creation.

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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