

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 18th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (August 2, 2026)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Isaiah 55: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come receive grain and eat; come without paying and without cost.

Romans 8: What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Matthew 14: You give them something to eat.

† Comments for the Day:

Hunger is horrible, but, what can I – a single person – do about it? This passage is a call to recognize God’s abundant provision in our lives and the active role we are called to play in sharing it. When faced with a hungry crowd in the wilderness, the disciples wanted to dismiss the crowd to save themselves the trouble. Jesus refused, challenging his followers to take responsibility. He deliberately involves humanity in divine work, encouraging us to use our hands to distribute his grace. Jesus did not send them away but said to them and to us “**YOU** give them something to eat.” Don’t send them away. Don’t look for a way out. Don’t hope for someone else to do it. Don’t wait for tomorrow, even.

What I hear Jesus saying is, “Don’t wait for someone else to do it. Don’t pretend you don’t have the time or the skills or the resources to do God’s bidding in the world. Don’t pretend you’re not qualified or capable. Don’t put it off for another day or time or moment when it might be more convenient for you. Don’t wait for me to do it in your place. You give them something to eat.”

When we feel overwhelmed by the needs of our family, our community, our world, today’s readings remind us that we do not have to fix everything by relying solely on our own strength. We are called to bring what we have to Jesus, and be willing to share the mission of building a better world for all.

The world of the first-century Roman Empire was marked by significant inequalities concerning food insecurity and struggled on a daily and seasonal basis for adequate food and nutrition. A small group of ruling elites enjoyed abundant variety and good quality of food, but most of the population lived at subsistence level with inadequate nutritional intake. Food access reflected the elite’s access to power that controlled resources. The lack of food was one of the ways many people experienced the injustice of this disparity of power.

That situation continues in our own time. How can we witness God’s mercy and compassion?

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.

A pertinent fact might help us identify concrete steps: individual family households are collectively responsible for one third of food waste (including rectories and convents). About one third of the world's population will go to bed hungry this evening. Wasting less allows us to share more, by assuming agency in the mission of building a better world according to God's plan, where abundant life is a gift that all can truly share, as God shares with us.

† **Passages from *Magnifica Humanitatis* to Note:**

The principle of subsidiarity requires that such processes not be imposed from above in an opaque and unilateral manner, but instead be directed toward the common good with transparency, accountability and meaningful forms of participation (including independent checks, transparency regarding algorithms, equitable access to data and avenues for recourse). (71)

When it comes to decisions regarding economic flows and digital platforms, as well as the governance of data and algorithms, we cannot allow a handful of actors to dictate these processes on their own; instead, we must build forms of cooperation that respect the various levels of the global community and make them jointly responsible for the common good. (72)

Solidarity arises precisely when we decide not to remain indifferent to what happens to our neighbor but instead to transform unavoidable bonds — economic, cultural and technological — into paths of sharing, cooperation and mutual care, embracing the idea of “thinking and acting in terms of community.” (74)

Justice, however, concerns not only the behavior of individuals, but also the way in which the structures of society are conceived and organized. In this regard, the second Vatican Council reminds us that every institution is called to serve the human person and his or her dignity. Social justice is, therefore, characterized by the capacity of a social, economic and political order to allow everyone — particularly the weakest — to live a truly dignified life, without leaving anyone behind. (77)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we might share generously as God has shared with us, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That we be inspired to encourage and foster an economy of communion, let us pray to the Lord

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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