

Homily Helps and Petitions for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A (October 18, 2026)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Isaiah 45: I have called you by your name, giving you a title, though you knew me not. I am the Lord and there is no other, there is no God besides me.

1 Thessalonians 1: For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with much conviction.

Matthew 22: At that he said to them, “Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.”

† Comments for the Day:

As the election cycle progresses, so too does the need to refer to our essential convictions as followers of Christ. Having been created in the image and likeness of God, we are called to give witness to the basic belief that we are all one family, responsible for caring for our common home.

We have done nothing to “deserve” or “merit” this blessing; it is given as a gift. And the proper response to a gift is gratitude. What better way to show our Creator that we are truly grateful than to imitate God’s generosity and bounty by sharing what He has shared freely with us?

We are reminded of this challenge each day when confronted with the plight of the homeless, the desperation of those who are hungry, the stark reality of the rich growing richer while those who are poor continue to be shunted aside, discarded as worthless. And when we hear about the impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable – those who have contributed least to the problem.

The measure of our faith is not merely our demonstration of gratitude to our Creator by participating in worship, but rather true solidarity: standing alongside those on the margins, who suffer the consequences of environmental injustice like climate change.

Paying taxes is one way of contributing to the common good, but it requires careful oversight of those funds, determined not merely by partisan wrangling, or to accommodate an economy that structurally favors enrichment of the few. The political commitment of the community which follows Christ demonstrates true concern for maintaining an economy at

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the service of the people, rather than putting people at the service of the economy.

Let us remember to exercise our civic duty and vote this November. Let us honor our obligation to care for the earth as our common home, and to promote the well-being of all our sisters and brothers.

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

We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family. There are no frontiers or barriers, political or social, behind which we can hide, still less is there room for the globalization of indifference. (52)

The establishment of a legal framework which can set clear boundaries and ensure the protection of ecosystems has become indispensable; otherwise, the new power structures based on the techno-economic paradigm may overwhelm not only our politics but also freedom and justice. (53)

Hence every ecological approach needs to incorporate a social perspective which takes into account the fundamental rights of the poor and the underprivileged. (93)

A healthy politics is sorely needed, capable of reforming and coordinating institutions, promoting best practices and overcoming undue pressure and bureaucratic inertia. It should be added, though, that even the best mechanisms can break down when there are no worthy goals and values, or a genuine and profound humanism to serve as the basis of a noble and generous society. (181)

A strategy for real change calls for rethinking processes in their entirety, for it is not enough to include a few superficial ecological considerations while failing to question the logic which underlies present-day culture. (197)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That the Spirit guide us to be mindful of the earth and its peoples in our everyday decisions and actions, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That in complex circumstances, we may find our voice and advocate for the planet and for the rights of all its people, especially those most vulnerable to climate change, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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