

## **Caring for Our Common Home: Liturgy Resources**

"Weekly *Laudato Si'* themes for bulletins and homilists."

### **Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle C (25 September 2016)**

#### **Homily Helps**

##### Comment for the day:

In the first reading from the prophet Amos, God decries the lack of solidarity and civic friendship among the people of his time. He laments the lack of what Pope Francis speaks of as "social love." Those who live in opulence and complacency, God says, will be the first ones to suffer exile.

The Psalm for today emphasizes that the Creator of Heaven and Earth is the same God who secures justice for the oppressed, gives sight to the blind, and protects the stranger.

Right from the beginning, today's Gospel parable presents a striking reversal of what we typically expect in a society. A rich man remains nameless while Lazarus, a poor man, is named. And what is the unforgivable sin of the rich man? It is the failure to notice the abject poverty and desperation of the person lying at his very door. Because of his indifference to the cry of the poor, the rich man's own plea for mercy goes unanswered. How does this parable play out in the contemporary context? The Lazarus lying at the door of the rich man might be an environmental refugee from Sub-Saharan Africa or Central America, someone fleeing droughts and famine exacerbated by climate change. Are we ourselves complacent in the face of the forces that bring the desperately needy to the doorsteps of Europe or to our southern border?

Clearly, we are to reject the globalization of indifference and recommit ourselves to the globalization of solidarity. The globalization of solidarity that Pope Francis commends to our attention is not a vague political or economic concept. Rather, it re-articulates our Christian commitment to righteousness, compassion, and love. Pope Francis speaks of social love that propels us to active engagement in our communities for the sake of the common good of all God's creation.

(For further ideas and resources, see this link to an inspirational story about a small city that, unlike the rich man, did notice the desperately poor, embraced refugees, and now prospers: <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/how-refugee-resettlement-became-a-revival-strategy-for-this-struggling-town>)

##### Scripture passages to note:

**Amos 6:** Woe to the complacent in Zion! Lying upon beds of ivory, stretched comfortably on their couches, they eat lambs taken from the flock, and calves from the stall!

**Psalm 146:** Blessed he who keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets captives free. The LORD protects strangers.

**1 Timothy 6:** But you, man of God, pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness.

## Homily Helps (cont.)

### Scripture passages to note (cont):

**Luke 16:** "There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table... And he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames.'"

### Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

As the United States bishops have cautioned, greater attention must be given to "the needs of the poor, the weak and the vulnerable, in a debate often dominated by more powerful interests". We need to strengthen our 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)

Many of the poor live in areas particularly affected by phenomena related to warming... For example, changes in climate... lead them to migrate; this in turn affects the livelihood of the poor, who are then forced to leave their homes, with great uncertainty for their future and that of their children. There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation. They are not recognized by international conventions as refugees; they bear the loss of the lives they have left behind, without enjoying any legal protection whatsoever. Sadly, there is widespread indifference to such suffering. (#25)

Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world. Love for society and commitment to the common good are outstanding expressions of a charity... 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". (#231)

## Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That God may strengthen us in our resolve to reject complacency and respond with mercy and solidarity to those fleeing severe droughts, violence and famine, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: For Pope Francis and the U.S. bishops, that they may inspire all people to reject the globalization of indifference and instead act with mercy and social love towards the poor and vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord....

## Further Resources

Webpage: <http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/preaching-resources>

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