

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 2nd Sunday of Easter, Cycle A (April 16, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Acts 2: All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need.

1 Peter 1: Although you have not seen him you love him.

John 20: Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

† Comments for the Day:

Jesus incarnated God's passion for a new heaven and a new earth, the heartfelt longing announced by the prophets, where all might flourish and enjoy life in abundance. In many people's minds, that life was interpreted to begin after this life. Jesus clearly came to spur us on to enjoy, and to celebrate in anticipation, the fulness of new life which would be ours in eternity. The passage from Acts today deals specifically with the fledgling Christian community coming to grips with the edification of a new society, highlighting the importance for all human beings to share in the benefits of this new life.

Peace is the gift and challenge that Jesus offers to the disciple in his post-resurrection visits. *Laudato Si'* makes special reference to the need for peace, pointing out that true inner peace is not unrelated to ecology and the common good. If lived authentically, inner peace is reflected in a balanced lifestyle that helps protect all creatures and the earth. Pope Francis' recent visit to the Congo and South Sudan, along with the ongoing situation in Ukraine, emphasize the urgent need for followers of Christ to be peacemakers. Peace is not a passive concept, something that God gives to us in response to our prayer. Peace is active, always in process, always in need of those willing to work for it.

Everything is interconnected. When we strive to isolate ourselves from others, or choose to forget our call to enter into a healthy relationship with the rest of creation, peace falls apart. The quality of human existence is immeasurably enhanced when we place it its center concern for the dignity of all women and men, and for all of God's creation, as well. As the hymn reminds us, "Let there be peace on earth – and let it begin with me."

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.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone. ... A great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path of renewal. (202)

An adequate understanding of spirituality consists in filling out what we mean by peace, which is much more than the absence of war. Inner peace is closely related to care for ecology and the common good because, lived out authentically, it is reflected in a balanced lifestyle together with a capacity for wonder which takes us to a deeper understanding of life. (225)

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 which affects not only relationships between individuals but also “macro-relationships, social, economic and political ones”. That is why the Church set before the world the ideal of a “civilization of love”. Social love is the key to authentic development... In this framework, along with the importance of little everyday gestures, social love moves us to devise larger strategies to halt environmental degradation and to encourage a “culture of care” which permeates all of society. (231)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we might seek to change our lifestyle in ways that will help give witness to our care for our common home and all God's creation, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That our breaking bread together might lead us to an ever-deeper commitment to promoting the common good of all, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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