

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Helps and Petitions for the Second Sunday of Easter, Cycle C (April 24, 2022)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Acts 5:** A large number of people from the towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered, bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

**John 20:** Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.

#### Comments for the Day:

People at the time of Jesus did not understand the cause of illness. They believed that the afflicted person was guilty of sin, or was possessed by some kind of a demon. This explains why so many healing stories also contain traces of an exorcism. The healing then became a tangible sign of the deliverance of the afflicted one.

Thomas is the extreme example of one who refuses to believe without concrete evidence. Many of us might claim him as our patron saint, for we too often demand some tangible sign before we can believe. As the saying goes, "Seeing is believing." But seeing is not believing; seeing is understanding. It is *not* seeing that is believing. At least, this is what Jesus says: "Blessed are those who have not seen but have believed." Still, believing is so much more difficult than seeing is.

Today, we seem to be possessed by the demon of tyrannical, distorted, excessive, and misguided anthropocentrism, to use Pope Francis' words. We have positioned ourselves as the center of the universe and we expect all of its marvelous forces to obey our bidding, and we do not realize that our view is distorted. We sometimes lack the fundamental faith of the people who brought their sick to Jesus; nor do we have the faith of Thomas who was willing to believe, even if it was on the condition of receiving a sign.

This also applies to our approach to the natural environment, which has suffered under human exploitation and greed for centuries, to the point where it can no longer effectively sustain life. If we are unable to recognize the unmistakable signs of this illness, which have become more obvious with climate change, how are we going to seek its healing? New thinking – new believing – is necessary.

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:

These situations have caused sister earth, along with all the abandoned of our world, to cry out, pleading that we take another course. Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years. (53)

A certain way of understanding human life and activity has gone awry, to the serious detriment of the world around us. (101)

Ecological culture cannot be reduced to a series of urgent and partial responses to the immediate problems of pollution, environmental decay and the depletion of natural resources. There needs to be a distinctive way of looking at things, a way of thinking, policies, an educational programme, a life style and a spirituality which together generate resistance to the assault of the technocratic paradigm. (111)

Modernity has been marked by an excessive anthropocentrism which today, under another guise, continues to stand in the way of shared understanding and of any effort to strengthen social bonds....our “dominion” over the universe should be understood more properly in the sense of responsible stewardship. (116)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That our eyes be opened to the negative consequences of our arrogance, particularly in our relationship with creation, and that we might embrace God’s healing power.

**Option 2:** That with St. Thomas we might acknowledge the foolishness of our ways of thinking, particularly regarding our consumptive lifestyles, and believe in God’s gracious promise of new life.

### Further Resources

**Feedback:** [info@catholicclimatecovenant.org](mailto:info@catholicclimatecovenant.org)

**Webpage:** [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help)

*Visit our webpage and sign up to receive these resources delivered to your email inbox each month.*