

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 3rd Sunday of Easter, Cycle A (April 23, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Acts 2: "God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses."

1 Peter 1: Your faith and hope are in God.

Luke 24: So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

† Comments for the Day:

At a relatively short time from the celebration of Holy Week and the renewal of our baptismal commitment at Easter, our collective "gung-ho" enthusiasm for the new life inaugurated by Jesus can slide easily into a "ho-hum" ordinariness. Not unlike the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we find it hard to truly believe that things can be different. Our understanding is often murky and we fail to grasp what is before our eyes, walking alongside us.

We are familiar with the call to personal conversion and with the need to spend time and energy in fostering a personal relationship with God. We are perhaps less convinced, however, that such conversion extends from the personal level to the communal. We grow to be more like God, more holy, to the extent that we go out of ourselves to enter into communion with others and with nature, God's creation.

Pope Francis clearly states that love is not only concerned with the gestures we extend to others in our personal lives. It is also concerned with the civic and political actions that lead to a better world for all. He is certain that we are capable of rising above ourselves, and choosing that which serves the common good. But in order to do this, we must rely on the power of the Holy Spirit poured out through the risen Christ. This power helps challenge us in our rigid opinions and reflect anew on human beings, society, our relationship with nature, and life itself.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

The ultimate destiny of the universe is in the fullness of God, which has already been attained by the risen Christ... Here we can add yet another argument for rejecting every tyrannical and irresponsible domination of human beings over other creatures. The ultimate purpose of other creatures is not to be found in us. Rather, all creatures are moving forward with us and through

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us towards a common point of arrival, which is God, in that transcendent fullness where the risen Christ embraces and illumines all things. Human beings, endowed with intelligence and love, and drawn by the fullness of Christ, are called to lead all creatures back to their Creator. (83)

The New Testament does not only tell us of the earthly Jesus and his tangible and loving relationship with the world. It also shows him risen and glorious, present throughout creation by his universal Lordship... This leads us to direct our gaze to the end of time, when the Son will deliver all things to the Father, so that “God may be everything to everyone” (*1 Cor 15:28*). (100)

If we want to bring about deep change, we need to realize that certain mindsets really do influence our behavior. Our efforts at education will be inadequate and ineffectual unless we strive to promote a new way of thinking about human beings, life, society and our relationship with nature. (215)

Rest opens our eyes to the larger picture and gives us renewed sensitivity to the rights of others. And so the day of rest, centered on the Eucharist, sheds its light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor. (237)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we might be attentive to hear in Jesus’ voice the cry of the poor and the cry of earth, our common home, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That we might accept the challenge to change our lives in both small gestures and larger actions that will promote the common good, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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