

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the Fifth Sunday of Easter, Cycle C (May 15, 2022)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Acts 14: [Paul and Barnabas] returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch. ... Then they traveled through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. After proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia. From there they sailed to Antioch.... when they arrived, they called the church together and reported what God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

Psalm 145: I will praise your name forever, my king and my God...The Lord is compassionate toward all his works. Let all your works give you thanks, O Lord.

Revelation 21: I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth. ... I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them ... and God himself will always be with them as their God." ... "Behold, I make all things new."

John 13: Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him.

† Comments for the Day:

St. Paul's missionary journeys spread the gospel and helped the early church see God's work in a new way. Pope Francis calls us to undertake a journey of personal spiritual conversion with regard to our care for creation. It also involves seeing God's work, the earth and all of creation, in a new way: Developing a more healthy relationship with the environment, and becoming protectors of its truth, goodness, and beauty.

To do this, we must be willing to undertake a journey of education and spiritual growth. This can help transform our lifestyles and improve the natural environment, including the climate, on which all life depends. We can better glorify God by showing greater care for creation, and protecting its goodness and beauty. This conversion is essential to our Christian experience.

Easter always leads to a new beginning. This Easter season is a time for us to glorify God with and in the risen Christ, to thank and praise Him. And a big part of this is working for the common good of all living creatures, and for the health of our common home. We can be the Lord's hands to help "make all things new."

† 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. This basic awareness would enable the development of new convictions, attitudes and forms of life. 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)

Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start . . . No system can completely suppress our openness to what is good, true and beautiful, or our God-given ability to respond to his grace at work deep in our hearts. (205)

The Earth Charter asked us to . . . make a new start.... Here I would echo that courageous challenge: "... common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning. ... Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life." (207)

We are always capable of going out of ourselves toward the other. . . . Disinterested concern for others, and the rejection of every form of self-centeredness and self-absorption, are essential if we truly wish to care for our brothers and sisters and for the natural environment. These attitudes also attune us to the moral imperative of assessing the impact of our every action and personal decision on the world around us. (208)

The ecological crisis is a summons to profound interior conversion.... What all [Christians] need is an "ecological conversion", whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience. (217)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That our encounters with the risen Christ during this Easter season will effect in us an interior conversion that will include a healthier relationship with the natural world, God's handiwork, of which we are a part, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That we will not be hesitant or afraid to undertake journeys that will change us and our care for our common home that God has entrusted to us, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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