

Integral Faith

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



Catholic Climate Covenantsm
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Homily Resources and Petitions for the Sixth Sunday of Easter Cycle C (May 26, 2019)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Acts 15: The Apostles and the elders, in agreement with the whole church decided to choose representatives and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas...

"It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities..."

Psalms 67: So may your way be known upon earth; among all the nations your salvation...
May the nations be glad and exult because you rule the peoples in equity...

Revelation 21: It gleamed with the splendor of God. Its radiance was like that of a precious stone, like jasper, clear as crystal.

John 14: "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words..."
"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you."

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

Since the market tends to promote extreme consumerism in an effort to sell its products, people can easily get caught up in a whirlwind of needless buying and spending. Compulsive consumerism is one example of how the techno-economic paradigm affects individuals...This paradigm leads people to believe that they are free as long as they have the supposed freedom to consume...Amid this confusion, postmodern humanity has not yet achieved a new self-awareness capable of offering guidance and direction, and this lack of identity is a source of anxiety. We have too many means and only a few insubstantial ends. (#203)

Not everyone is called to engage directly in political life. Society is also enriched by a countless array of organizations which work to promote the common good and to defend the environment, whether natural or urban...Around these community actions, relationships develop or are recovered and a new social fabric emerges. Thus a community can break out of the indifference induced by consumerism. These actions cultivate a new identity, with a story which can be remembered and handed on. In this way the world and quality of life for the poorest are cared for, with a sense of solidarity which is at the same time aware that we live in a common home which God has entrusted to us. These community actions, when they express self-giving love, can also become intense spiritual experiences. (#232)

Christianity does not reject matter. Rather, bodiliness is considered in all its value in the liturgical act, whereby the human body is disclosed in its inner nature as a temple of the Holy Spirit and is united with the Lord Jesus who himself took a body for the world's salvation. (#235)

It is in the Eucharist that all that has been created finds its greatest exaltation. Grace which tends to manifest itself tangibly, found unsurpassable expression when God himself became man (human?) and gave himself as food for his creatures. The Lord, in the culmination of the mystery of the incarnation, chose to reach our intimate depths through a fragment of matter. (#236)

† **Comment for the day:**

The scripture readings for the sixth Sunday of the Easter season emphasize the themes of community and communion. Both the church at Antioch and the Council of Jerusalem arrived at their decisions communally. The Gospel of John emphasizes Jesus's promise of indwelling, that most intimate communion that he and the Father will have with those who love him. Pope Francis urges us to approach care for the environment as a community: local, national, interfaith, or international. He urges us to see the presence of God in the material things of this world. The Christian vision of the New Jerusalem then is a vision of the fullness of that presence of God in our midst. Aware of that vision, we view all creatures with reverence. We join with them in that intimate communion between God and all beings which, as a result of the Resurrection, we know is already at work in our world. And so it is, as the pope points out, that Jesus is with us most intimately in a mere morsel of bread.

In the gospel of this day, Jesus tells us that he will give us peace of a kind much greater than what the world gives. Pope Francis tells us that if our lives are too influenced by consumerism, we will experience neither peace nor freedom nor a sense of wonder. We will suffer the anxiety that leads us to forget the common good and the needs of the poor. Happiness will come when we can live lives that are prophetic and contemplative, lives of deep enjoyment free of obsession with consumption.

† **Related Prayers of the Faithful:**

Option 1: Mindful that Jesus gave us the gift of peace, that we may deepen the gift by living as he taught us to live, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That, like Jesus, we may "appreciate each person and each thing, learning familiarity with the simplest things and how to enjoy them" (#223), let us pray to the Lord....

Option 3: That we may "discover the action of God in the soul, but also discover God in all things," (#233), let us pray to the Lord....

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