

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Helps and Petitions for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter, Cycle A (19 April 2020)

### Homily Helps

#### † Comment for the day:

While the passage from Acts for this Sunday deals specifically with the fledgling Christian community, it nevertheless highlights the importance for all human beings of being part of a community. 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 God's creation, as well. Pope Francis underscores this concern in *Laudato Si'*. There he encourages us to take that journey of personal and communal renewal that will restore Our Common Home.

In his first pastoral letter, Peter speaks of the way that God, in great mercy, has given us all a new birth in hope through the resurrection of Jesus. If we find the journey of renewal daunting, the power that raised Jesus from the dead will provide us with the strength necessary to face the challenges we face in today's world. This past year our planet has undergone huge reductions in the numbers of bees and other insects and life in our seas and forests. The wildfires in Australia have killed an estimated billion animals. Can we commit to aligning ourselves with the power that raised Jesus from the dead to work on the many challenges that face God's creation on the earth?

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. There Pope Francis points out that true inner peace is not unrelated to ecology and the common good. Rather, if lived authentically, inner peace is reflected in a balanced lifestyle that helps protect all creatures and the earth.

#### † Scripture passages to note:

**Acts 2:** They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

**1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

**John 20:** Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

## Homily Helps (cont.)

### † Passages from Laudato Si' to note:

Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change... 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)

[T]he issue of environmental degradation challenges us to examine our lifestyle. (#206)

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)

## Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That we might seek to change our lifestyle in ways that will help protect all God's children and our Mother Earth, 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](mailto:Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org)

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

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