

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the Easter Sunday, Cycles A, B, C (12 April 2020)

Homily Helps

† Comment for the day:

The themes of life, starting anew and doing God's will dovetail readily with the message of hope with which Pope Francis concludes *Laudato Si'*. In the Gospel reading from Mark, the disciples believed yet did not fully understand that Jesus had to rise from the dead, nor did they understand that in his Resurrection he invites all his followers to participate in the task of overcoming death in all of its aspects. As Jesus had gone about doing the will of his Father and healing all those oppressed by the devil, so are we as disciples commissioned to go forth and heal the ills of our world today. Paul also invites us to re-commit ourselves to this task, clearing out the old yeast and becoming a fresh batch of dough able to serve as yeast for all.

In his encyclical, the Pope recalls the Earth Charter of 2002, which calls us to a new reverence for life. He invites us to promote the common task of protecting all our sisters and brothers, along with all creation. Everything has been gifted us by an all-loving God. Pope Francis reminds us that all Sundays are celebrations of the Resurrection, and Sunday is meant to be a day which heals our relationships with God, with self, with others and with creation.

As we celebrate Jesus' resurrection which brings us hope for new life for ourselves and the world, we might find new hope in the signs that our culture is becoming more and more aware of the need to care for our common home. Among those signs is the announcement by three major U.S. banks that they will cease financing the fossil fuel industry.

† Scripture passages to note:

Acts 10: God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

I Corinthians 5: Do you not know that a little yeast leavens all the dough? Clear out the old yeast, so that you may become a fresh batch of dough...

John 20: Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

Homily Helps (cont.)

† Passages from Laudato Si' to note:

The Earth Charter asked us to leave behind a period of self-destruction and make a new start, but we have not as yet developed a universal awareness needed to achieve this. Here I would echo that courageous challenge: "As never before in history, 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)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That our loving God may help us to join with all people of good will in promoting the dignity of our sisters and brothers, and in protecting our Sister, Mother Earth, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That our Gracious God may give us the courage to clean out the old dough and be yeast for all, calling for a new commitment to building God's Kingdom in our midst, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

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