

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the Pentecost Sunday, Cycle B (May 23, 2021)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Acts 2: They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. [And those present asked] ...how does each of us hear them in his native language?

Psalm 104: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

1 Corinthians 12: To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.

John 20: Jesus said to them [again], "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Comments for the Day:

In this passage from the Gospel of John, Jesus breathes on the disciples and gifts them with the Holy Spirit. In the reading from Acts, the Holy Spirit descends upon the disciples and impels them forth to proclaim the Good News to all. The responsorial psalm declares that when God sends the Spirit upon his people, all things, all creatures, all life are renewed on the earth. In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul reminds his readers that the gift of the Spirit is manifested in each of us for the common good of all.

Through baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist, Jesus sends us, his disciples, out into the world. The Spirit abiding in us empowers us to overcome our self-centeredness and to transcend our limitations. In our world today, self-centeredness continues to be a viral disease of humanity – even more contagious and difficult to fight than a pandemic. Advertisers and sales people feed it. Politicians in this land of individualism and "freedom" protect it.

Today's readings impel us to move beyond ourselves, just as the disciples moved beyond themselves. In *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis summons us to work for the common good. The gospel empowers us to transcend our self-centered habits and lifestyles. Our vocation as children of God and siblings with Jesus is to imitate his care for our sisters and brothers, and for all of God's magnificent creation. That vocation is not optional! Our energy, determination, and readiness to pursue it can come only from God. As the disciples on Pentecost were swept out of their enclave by the Holy Spirit, so we need to move out of our self-enclosure to share the gospel with others, to care for our common home, and do our part to save the world.

This resource is provided by Catholic Climate Covenant in collaboration with the Integral Faith Team, a group of male and female religious, priests, and lay people dedicated to serving the Church.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

We are able to take an honest look at ourselves, to acknowledge our deep dissatisfaction, and to embark on new paths to authentic freedom. ... We are always capable of going out of ourselves towards the other. (205, 208)

Christians have not always appropriated and developed the spiritual treasures bestowed by God upon the Church, where the life of the spirit is not dissociated from the body or from nature or from worldly realities, but lived in and with them, in communion with all that surrounds us. (216)

Living out 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)

The human person grows more, matures more and is sanctified more to the extent that he or she enters into relationships, going out from themselves to live in communion with God, with others and with all creatures. In this way, they make their own that trinitarian dynamism which God imprinted in them when they were created. Everything is interconnected, and this invites us to develop a spirituality of that global solidarity which flows from the mystery of the Trinity. (240)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost might inspire all of us to share our talents in promoting the good of all living creatures, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That we might change our habits and lifestyles to truly protect God's magnificent earth, our common home, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

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