

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 3rd Sunday of Easter, Cycle A (26 April 2020)

Homily Helps

† Comment for the day:

We Christians are familiar with the call to personal conversion and with the need to spend time and energy in fostering a personal relationship with God. We are not always convinced, however, that such conversion extends from the personal level to the communal. By way of encouraging us to make this connection, Pope Francis clearly states that love is not only concerned with the gestures we extend to others in our personal lives; it is also concerned with the civic and political actions that lead to a better world. He is certain that we are capable of rising above ourselves, and choosing that which serves the good of all. In order to do this, we rely on the power of the Holy Spirit poured out through the risen Jesus Christ, a power that helps us challenge our current fixed opinions and reflect anew on human beings, society, our relationship with nature, and life itself.

Not unlike the disciples on the road to Emmaus, our understanding is often clouded and we cannot grasp that which is before our eyes. In many places in the U.S., the coasts and the shores of the Great Lakes, beaches are disappearing and the foundations of homes and other structures are ruined. These things are happening before our very eyes, yet we continue life as usual. Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, is so inundated that the Indonesian government is building a new capital city. In the breaking of the bread, however, we come to recognize the meaning of the sacrament of the Eucharist and of how it sheds light on all of our actions. Renewed in hope, with open eyes, let us work together for all in Our Common Home.

† Scripture passages to note:

Acts 2: Exalted at the right hand of God, he received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father and poured him forth, as you see and hear.

Psalms 16: You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence.

1st Peter 1: If you invoke as Father him who judges impartially according to each one's works, conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning.

Luke 24: And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

Homily Helps (cont.)

† Passages from Laudato Si' to note:

Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world. Love for society and commitment to the common good are outstanding expressions of a charity which affects not only relationships between individuals but also macro-relationships. (#231)

Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start, despite their mental and social conditioning. (#205)

If we want to bring about deep change, we need to realize that certain mindsets really do influence our behavior. Our efforts at education will be inadequate and ineffectual unless we strive to promote a new way of thinking about human beings, life, society and our relationship with nature. (#215)

Rest opens our eyes to the larger picture and gives us renewed sensitivity to the rights of others. And so the day of rest, centered on the Eucharist, sheds its light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor. (#237)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we might come to understand better our commitment to building the Kingdom in the breaking of the bread, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That we might accept the challenge to change our lives in both small gestures and in actions that will promote the common good, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

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