

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 4th Sunday of Easter, Cycle A (April 30, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Acts 2: "What are we to do, my brothers?" Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call."

Psalms 23: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

1 Peter 2: If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps.

John 10: "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

† Comments for the Day:

Rugged individualism is in our DNA, the belief that, as individuals, we can pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps and get ahead. Exactly what is meant by "get ahead" may not coincide entirely with the call to follow Christ by being willing to empty ourselves for the sake of others.

Pope Francis notes that faith in individualism, unlimited progress, competition, consumerism, and the market are characteristics of our modern mindset. Those values stand in stark contrast with Peter's call to be patient in suffering for the sake of others, just as Jesus suffered for us. We are called to model our lives on the example of the Good Shepherd, who provides everything necessary for the sheep. In John's Gospel, Jesus proclaims that he has come to bring life in abundance for all, in this life now, looking forward to the long-awaited realization of the reign of God.

Like those who heard the words of the apostles in the reading from Acts, we too must ask: "What are we to do?" What are the core elements around which we structure our lives? Are our lifestyles built upon individualism and consumerism? How can we restore our relationships with God, others, and God's creation? Perhaps that restoration can involve cultivating a sense of awe – awe at God working in our lives and in the wonderful gift of creation. Abandoning the race to have the most, the best, or the latest consumer goods would certainly leave more room for awe.

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:

[T]he ethical and spiritual roots of environmental problems require that we look for solutions not only in technology but in a change of humanity; otherwise we would be dealing merely with symptoms... It is a way of loving, of moving gradually away from what I want to what God's world needs. It is liberation from fear, greed and compulsion. As Christians... "It is our humble conviction that the divine and the human meet in the slightest detail in the seamless garment of God's creation, in the last speck of dust of our planet". (9)

We fail to see that some are mired in desperate and degrading poverty, with no way out, while others have not the faintest idea of what to do with their possessions, vainly showing off their supposed superiority and leaving behind them so much waste which, if it were the case everywhere, would destroy the planet. (90)

[Environmental education] tends now to include a critique of the "myths" of a modernity grounded in a utilitarian mindset (individualism, unlimited progress, competition, consumerism, the unregulated market). (210)

Self-improvement on the part of individuals will not by itself remedy the extremely complex situation facing our world today. Isolated individuals can lose their ability and freedom to escape the utilitarian mindset, and end up prey to an unethical consumerism bereft of social or ecological awareness. (219)

As believers, we do not look at the world from without but from within, conscious of the bonds with which the Father has linked us to all beings. By developing our individual, God-given capacities, an ecological conversion can inspire us to greater creativity and enthusiasm in resolving the world's problems and in offering ourselves to God "as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable" (*Rom 12:1*). (220)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we might work toward dignity for all, especially the marginalized and most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That we might follow in the footsteps of Jesus, willing to suffer and sacrifice for our sisters and brothers, and for earth, our common home, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

Webpage: www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help

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