

Integral Faith

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



Catholic Climate Covenant™
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Homily Helps and Petitions for the 5th Sunday of Easter, Cycle A (May 7, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Acts 6: "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task."

Psalms 33: Upright is the word of the Lord, and all his works are trustworthy. He loves justice and right; of the kindness of the Lord the earth is full.

1 Peter 2: Come to him, a living stone ... and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house.

John 14: "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. ... Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these."

† Comments for the Day:

In his first pastoral letter, Peter challenged his readers to be living stones of the church, that is, to allow themselves to be built into a dwelling place for God's own spirit. What does that then look like for us in today's world?

In John's gospel, the disciples were concerned that they had not yet mastered the lessons that Jesus had given them. Jesus made it clear, however, that there was no manual for them to follow; rather, he himself is the blueprint for the work that they were to do to carry on his mission. They were to do his works if they believed in him, and their works would be even greater!

So, too, with us today: He is the way, the truth, and the light. The secret? Unconditional concern for others, and the rejection of every form of self-centeredness and self-absorption. Jesus dedicated his life to others, and he expects the same from his followers today. Like the apostles in Acts, we must be willing to change our attitudes so as to live like Jesus did, in our day-to-day lives and in our own communities.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis offers us a vision that encourages, motivates, nourishes, and gives meaning to our individual and communal lives. In contrast to the vapid consumerism of our day, he leads us to see that the possession of many things does not make us happy. Indeed, if we follow his lead, we can create a lifestyle that is both prophetic and contemplative – and happy.

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.

Greta Thunberg, the young environmental leader girl, has inspired youth, school students, and adults throughout the world to urge action to alleviate climate change. She began her mission by convincing her parents to live a more sustainable lifestyle. From there she challenges all of us to work on this, to pay attention to our lifestyle as it is impacting our whole human family.

As individuals and as a community, we can make a difference by making changes in our own lives, in our own immediate surroundings. As people of faith and followers of Jesus, we must.

† **Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:**

Since the market tends to promote extreme consumerism in an effort to sell its products, people can easily get caught up in a whirlwind of needless buying and spending. . . . When people become self-centered and self-enclosed, their greed increases. The emptier a person's heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume. (203, 204)

Disinterested concern for others, and the rejection of every form of self-centeredness and self-absorption, are essential if we truly wish to care for our brothers and sisters and for the natural environment. These attitudes also attune us to the moral imperative of assessing the impact of our every action and personal decision on the world around us. (208)

Spirituality can motivate us to a more passionate concern for the protection of our world. A commitment this lofty cannot be sustained by doctrine alone, without a spirituality capable of inspiring us, without an "interior impulse" which encourages, motivates, nourishes and gives meaning to our individual and communal activity. (216)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That, in the spirit of Jesus, we reject all forms of self-centeredness to better promote the well-being of all people and of earth, our common home, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That we foster a lifestyle that is centered not on material things, but our relationships with all living things and the environment, in unconditional love for creation, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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