

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 6th Sunday of Easter, Cycle A (May 14, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Acts 8: Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

Psalms 66: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

1 Peter 3: Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.

John 14: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth."

† Comments for the Day:

A prominent theme of the post-resurrection narratives is the sending of the Spirit among the disciples. In Acts, the apostles are sent to Samaria to pray that that new adherents to the faith might receive the Holy Spirit. In his first letter, Peter reminds all of us that we should be ready to explain to anyone who asks why we have hope. And in the Gospel, Jesus promises that the Father will send a new Advocate, "the Spirit of truth."

The beautiful Christian symbol of the Holy Spirit is the dove, a bird. Doves and other birds communicate by filling the air with song. They fly near to heaven; in temperate climates their songs signal the return of spring. They embody grace and peace and new beginnings. The dove's cousin, the carrier pigeon, kept people's minds and hearts together by carrying messages. This year, The Audubon Society sadly reports that climate change endangers nearly half of North American birds and pigeons. "We must act now, while there is still time" – time to save these reminders of the Holy Spirit's presence in our beautiful world.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on our lifestyle and ideals, while we simultaneously contemplate the God who created us and lives in our midst. When we recognize the presence of the Spirit in our hearts and in our communities, we can find the hope we need as we confront the problems of our world today, like war and climate change. Without God there is no hope, but animated by God's Spirit we are emboldened to invite all people, and indeed all of creation, to cry out to God with joy!

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.

Apart from God, we may despair, but with God we can renew our lives and the web of relationships upon which our lives are built. Laudato Si'! Praise be to God!

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

An integral ecology includes taking time to recover a serene harmony with creation, reflecting on our lifestyle and our ideals, and contemplating the Creator who lives among us and surrounds us, whose presence "must not be contrived but found, uncovered." (225)

The Spirit, infinite bond of love, is intimately present at the very heart of the universe, inspiring and bringing new pathways. (238)

The divine Persons are subsistent relations, and the world, created according to the divine model, is a web of relationships. (240)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we may become more aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit already at work in our own hearts and actions, particularly in caring for creation, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That personally and communally, we may work to foster the web of relationships with other living creatures that are symbols and gifts of God, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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