

## Homily Helps and Petitions for the Feast of Pentecost, Cycle A (May 28, 2023)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Acts 2:** And they all were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. [The crowd] asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language?"

**Psalm 104:** When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you 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 the reading from Acts, the Holy Spirit descends upon the disciples and impels them forth to proclaim the Good News. The responsorial psalm declares that when God sends the Spirit upon his people, all things 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 them for the common good of all. And in John's gospel, Jesus breathes on the disciples and gifts them with the Holy Spirit. Now, of course, all that applies to *us*!

Jesus continues sending his disciples, each of us, out into the world with his Spirit abiding *in* us. Jesus empowers us to overcome our self-centeredness so we can transcend our limitations. When we look around at our world today, too often we see that this self-centeredness continues to be a preoccupation of humanity as a whole. At the same time, we know and see countless acts of generosity and heroism among the members of our human family. The readings for Pentecost impel us to take the path of generosity and love, moving beyond ourselves just as the disciples moved beyond themselves, from Jerusalem out into the whole world.

It is precisely this summons to move beyond ourselves that Pope Francis asks of us in *Laudato Si'*. The vocation at the core of our relationship with Jesus involves sharing his own care for our sisters and brothers. And this includes caring for God's magnificent creation that includes all living creatures. This vocation is not optional: the determination and confidence to pursue it can only come from God. That is why the Spirit comes down upon us, to fire us up to help make our world a better "common home" for all. Like the disciples who were swept up by the Holy Spirit,

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we too are charged to proclaim God's truth in the language of our own lives, communities, and nations.

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

The current global situation engenders a feeling of instability and uncertainty, which in turn becomes "a seedbed for collective selfishness". (204)

We are always capable of going out of ourselves towards the other. Unless we do this, other creatures will not be recognized for their true worth. (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)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That the gifts of the Spirit will effectively inspire all of us to share our talents in caring for creation and promoting the good of all, let us pray to the Lord....

**Option 2:** That, through the Holy Spirit, we will find ways to care for creation through more sustainable lifestyles that respect God's magnificent earth, let us pray to the Lord....

### Further Resources

**Feedback:** [info@catholicclimatecovenant.org](mailto:info@catholicclimatecovenant.org)

**Webpage:** [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help)

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