

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 3rd Sunday of Easter, Cycle B, (April 14, 2024)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Acts 3: God raised him from the dead, and we are his witnesses.

1 John 2: Those who say, "I know him," but do not keep his commandments are liars, and the truth is not in them.

Luke 24: Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

† Comments for the Day:

Easter is a season about much more than singing alleluia and telling the story of the empty tomb. The risen Christ invites us to contemplate a world that hungers for hope and is thirsting for a way to begin again. This hunger and thirst are not only spiritual, but also integral to life itself.

As we approach the annual celebration of Earth Day, just a week away, Pope Francis invites us in his letter to all people of good will, to *Praise God for all his creatures*. Eight years after his groundbreaking document *On Care for our Common Home*, Francis again encourages us to be attentive to the cry of the earth, to hear the plea of the poor, to be sensitive to the hopes of the young and the dreams of children!

The task to which we are called today as followers of Christ – celebrating his glorious resurrection - is not about yesterday, but about tomorrow: a tomorrow that, whether we like it or not, will belong to everyone or else to no one. We have been saved, not individually, but as a People, committed to solidarity, to walk with and assume the cause of those who have been left out.

The drive to produce and possess has become an obsession, resulting in an inordinate greed that has made the environment itself the object of unbridled exploitation. The climate is crying out to us to halt this illusion of omnipotence. When human beings claim to take God's place, they become their own worst enemies. Let us once more recognize our limits, with humility and courage, as the sole path to a life of authentic fulfilment.

What stands in the way of this? The divisions that presently exist among us. We find ourselves facing firm and even inflexible positions calculated to protect income and business interests, at

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times justifying this based on what was done in the past, and frequently shifting the responsibility to others. We seal ourselves in a tomb of our own making.

Let us emerge from the tomb of narrow self-interest and exclusion; these are approaches belonging to the past. Let us join in embracing an alternative vision, based on the novelty of the new life we celebrate this Easter season. This depends on an ecological conversion, for there are no lasting changes without cultural changes, and there are no cultural changes without personal changes.

Authentic faith transforms life. Let us emerge from the dark night of wars and environmental devastation, leaving behind our divisions in order to unite our forces, and with God's help, turn our common future into the dawn of a new and radiant day.

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

The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. (#13)

The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. At the global level, it is a complex system linked to many of the essential conditions for human life. (#23)

It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an "ecological conversion," whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. (#217)

(This conversion) entails gratitude and gratuitousness, a recognition that the world is God's loving gift, and that we are called quietly to imitate his generosity in self-sacrifice and good works: "Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing" (Mt. 6:3). It also entails a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures, but joined in a splendid universal communion. (#220)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That the church, the people of God, will have the fortitude and courage to call the world to an ecological conversion and thus heal the world of hunger, disease, and ruin, let us pray to the Lord.

Option 2: That the Easter alleluia will resound in a world that is just and peaceful for every living creature, let us pray to the Lord.

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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