

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the The Seventh Sunday of Easter - Ascension, Cycle C (June 1, 2025)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Acts 7: I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their groaning, and I have come down to rescue them. Come now, I will send you to Egypt.

Psalms 97: The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice; let the many islands be glad.

Revelation 22: Blessed are they who wash their robes so as to have the right to the tree of life and enter the city through its gates

John 17: And everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them.

† Comments for the Day:

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord is the culmination of the Lord's salvific mission. But it is not the end of his mission in the world nor the cessation of his presence among us. Although taken into heaven, he is present through the people we serve and the world he created. He continues his mission through his followers. Our primary mission as followers is to rise above our weaknesses and ascend to the height of holiness. The world around us can help our spiritual growth. Contemplating in nature is one effective way of nurturing our spiritual lives.

The reading from the Acts of the Apostles emphasizes our missionary mandate when it speaks about Moses' mission to Egypt. Witnessing is about sharing our experience of something. The beauty of our God-created world can be a starting point. The psalmist stated that the earth should rejoice because God is king of all the earth. Such an admittance can spur us to be responsible stewards of creation.

The reading from John reminds us of the importance of detachment from things. Such detachment allows us to never be possessed by our possessions. We can all be glorified through the created world, endowing us with God's generous spirit, so that there is always enough for all.

The created world has value, not because of its usefulness to human beings, but by virtue of its being created by God. In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us that we are not separate from the rest of creation, but are joined in communion with it. It is our challenge, with the help of the

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Spirit, to undergo the profound interior conversion that Pope Francis speaks of, leading to generosity and good stewardship of all God's creation.

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

We take [ecosystems] into account not only to determine how best to use them, but also because they have an intrinsic value independent of their usefulness. Each organism, as a creature of God, is good and admirable in itself; the same is true of the harmonious ensemble of organisms existing in a defined space and functioning as a system. Although we are often not aware of it, we depend on these larger systems for our own existence. (140)

"The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast." For this reason, the ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion. ... Living 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)

This conversion calls for a number of attitudes which together foster a spirit of generous care, full of tenderness. First, it 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. ... 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 in contemplating the wisdom of God, we might recognize our responsibility to all of God's creation that is necessary to sustain life, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That we might seek the profound inner conversion that will compel us to be generous and humble stewards of God's creation, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

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