



Homily suggestions for the 5th Sunday of Lent: Solidarity Sunday

Development and Peace – Caritas Canada

This broad outline of a reflection is intended to assist clergy in preparing the homily for the 5th Sunday of Lent. You are invited to adapt these according to the liturgical text of the day, the time you have available, the life of the Christian community, and the *For our Common Home* campaign of Development and Peace – Caritas Canada.

One or more of these notes might be incorporated into the homily for the 5th Sunday of Lent:

- Today’s readings are full of the mercy and compassion of God for humanity. This mercy and compassion are manifested by God’s choice to offer eternal life to that which is subject to death.
- “Jesus Wept,” is popularly known as the shortage passage in scripture. In just two words, the humanity of Christ is captured. Like Christ, we are called to feel deeply the suffering of others around us and to respond as Christ does.
- Do we allow ourselves to feel the emotion that Christ does when we encounter the suffering of others, especially those in the human family that suffer the most in the world? Do we let ourselves be close to the cries of those whose lives are destroyed by war and poverty throughout the world?
- Just like Christ, we do not weep because we are powerless to act. Instead, our tears move us towards action for those for whom we have compassion.
- This action is always dependent on the mercy of God. Like Jesus, we trust in the power of God to “hear us” and to reverse that which was thought to be irreversible.
- During Lent, the church asks us to have the compassion and mercy of Christ by giving to the charitable works of the Church. For over 50 years, the 5th Sunday of Lent has been the day we are invited to donate through Share Lent to Development and Peace – Caritas Canada.
- Making a donation to express our solidarity with the poor and oppressed contributes to a vision of life in the face of so much death in the world.
- While our compassion does not literally raise the dead, it does make a difference in the lives of those who are suffering from hunger, violence, and poverty. This year Development and Peace asks us to weep for the Amazon and the people who live there, and to act in solidarity with them.
- The papal exhortation that resulted from the Synod on the Amazon convened by Pope Francis calls us to take extra care to protect the Amazon. We need to see it as an important part of our common home instead of simply a set of natural resources to exploit for money.