



April 22, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Easter (B)

Acts 4:8–12

1 Jn 3:1–2

Jn 10:11–18

A Love-Filled Sacrifice

At the center of this painting, Renato Guttuso (1912-1987) places the piercing reality of pain represented by the hand of Jesus. The dark reds, blacks, and blues give way to the brightness of the oranges, yellows, and whites. This choice of palette is purposeful. Death is depicted with the same palate as a sunset, when darkness closes in on the light. But then night gives way to the colors of the sunrise when new life springs forth. The brutal darkness that leads to his death is replaced by the light-giving act of the love of God.

The Good Shepherd also shows the beauty of this love-filled sacrifice. This is why the Father loves Jesus; because he lays down his life for us. He has the power to do so and does it freely. This is because the Shepherd's mission and vocation is centered on the good of the sheep. They are the center of his daily cares and concerns. Jesus tells us that you and I are the utter focus of his heart and life. You are worth it. It is a beautiful thing to be loved by someone. Imagine if this someone is God himself.

As modern as this painting looks, the artist honors a traditional symbol. Byzantine art often depicted the blood from Jesus' side falling into a chalice to connect the passion of Jesus with the eucharistic sacrifice. Notice that the artist does the same by showing the blood falling into a simple chalice with a host at its center.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Piece: *Hands of the Crucified*, 1965
Artist: Renato Guttuso
Location: Vatican Museums



For Reflection

Jesus, how well do I imitate your love by sacrificing for others?

Do I seek salvation, peace, and healing from Jesus?

*[Jesus said,] "I am the good shepherd.
A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."
John 10:11*

Calendar

Monday

April 23

Easter Weekday

Acts 11:1–18

Jn 10:1–10

Tuesday

April 24

Easter Weekday

Acts 11:19–26

Jn 10:22–30

Wednesday

April 25

St. Mark,
Evangelist

1 Pt 5:5b–14

Mk 16:15–20

Thursday

April 26

Easter Weekday

Acts 13:13–25

Jn 13:16–20

Friday

April 27

Easter Weekday

Acts 13:26–33

Jn 14:1–6

Saturday

April 28

Easter Weekday

Acts 13:44–52

Jn 14:7–14

Sunday

April 29

Fifth Sunday

of Easter

Acts 9:26–31

1 Jn 3:18–24

Jn 15:1–8

Dear Padre,

Every time I pick up a Catholic magazine, I read articles about taking care of our environment. Shouldn't Christians be more concerned with the big problems in the world—such as war, hunger, and sickness?

The world's big problems as you name them are not as disconnected to the environment as they seem. The depletion of natural resources displaces people, and their forced migration can create social conflict. Droughts impact some of the estimated 800 million undernourished people globally. Climate affects certain diseases and their transmission.

In his encyclical *Laudato si'*, Pope Francis wrote, “The deterioration of the environment and of society affects the most vulnerable people on the

planet” (*LS* 48). He adds that a solution to the crisis demands an approach that is both social and environmental in “combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time, protecting nature” (*LS* 139).

Thus, we can't feed the hungry or visit the ill, then dump toxins on the ground and claim we love God's creation. We can't defend the unborn and exploit the

environment upon which all life depends. Love demands that we act with care toward all creation, since we cannot sever creation from the Creator. If we respect the earth, we'll find it easy to revere the war-torn, the hungry, and the sick.

Moreover, Catholic print and electronic media must help call attention to environmental concerns because they involve our Christian duty to act upon the physical world in a way that respects its relationship to God.

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A Word From Pope Francis

The grave environmental crisis facing our world demands an ever greater sensitivity to the relationship between human beings and nature. We have a responsibility to pass on the beauty of nature in its integrity to future generations, and an obligation to exercise a just stewardship of the gifts we have received.

—Visit to Kenya, November 25, 2015