



# Bringing Home the Word

*Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)*

May 10, 2020

## Rely on the Cornerstone

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

One of the great accomplishments of Roman construction was the arch. It enabled them to span larger distances and make bigger buildings without sacrificing strength. Just think of the Roman aqueducts, basilicas, and coliseums standing today.

The key to the Roman arch is that each stone is well cut. Additionally, the cornerstone takes all the stress and stabilizes the whole. Saint Peter uses these construction images as a metaphor for the Church. We are all living stones, built into a spiritual house founded on

the cornerstone, Jesus Christ. Like the deacons in the early Church, we each have a role to play.

What is asked of a stone in a building structure? Every stone needs to be strong. It needs to be formed and shaped. Accepting and seeking formation in faith is key to finding our place in life and in God's house. A stone needs to be connected to the stones alongside it. Finally, the stone needs to accept where the master builder places it. If a stone could move itself from one place to another, there would be chaos.

Our active participation in God's plan and the Church is important. We must build on the one sure foundation and follow the plan of the master builder and those who represent him. Jesus has prepared a place for each of us in the Church and in heaven. Jesus is the way. Follow him and he will lead you to your place. +

## Sunday Readings

### Acts 6:1-7

The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly.

### 1 Peter 2:4-9

Come to him, a living stone...and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house.

### John 14:1-12

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

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## A Word from Pope Francis

Be my ambassador, [Mary] says to us, giving food to the hungry, drink to those who thirst, a refuge to those in need, clothe the naked and visit the sick. Come to the aid of your neighbor, forgive whoever has offended you, console the grieving, be patient with others, and above all beseech and pray to God.

—Homily, February 13, 2016



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Have I sought out a place to serve and build up the Church in my local area?
- What spiritual means do I use to discern Jesus' plan for me?

# Feeding the Hungry in a Land of Dieters

By Jim and Susan Vogt

A man holds a sign at an interstate exit: “Will work for food.” You’re moved with compassion but have just seconds to act before the traffic moves again. What might a conscientious Christian do? Do you drive him to your home and pay him to weed the garden? Probably not.

Do you hand him \$5 and wish him well? Most likely you drive by, saddened and conflicted. After all, Jesus clearly tells us to feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty (Matthew 25:31–46). One family we know stores a bag of nonperishable food in the car to hand out the window—a good idea, but few of us are this prepared. What’s a Christian to do?

It’s one thing to meet a hungry person on the street and another to read about children dying of hunger in an impoverished country or suffering from malnutrition in poor areas of your community. Conscientious people are disturbed knowing that many Americans are concerned about losing weight, while others would welcome our leftovers.

Let’s say you raise vegetables, have reduced meat consumption for your health, and don’t overeat. Are you home free in the feeding-the-hungry department? Well, as many moral issues go, yes and no. It’s virtuous to use food wisely. Consider, however, the



connection between what we eat and the reality that some people in the world are hungry. For example, Colombian farmers grow coffee for export, yet their own families go hungry because of insufficient income. One can’t survive just on coffee.

Globalization shows that our planet is interconnected.

Overconsumption of resources, pollution, and economic irresponsibility in one part of the world will eventually impact all. Jesus’ command to be like the Good Samaritan rings in our ears. Our neighbor is anyone who needs us to be a neighbor, since anyone in need presents a claim on us. It can sound overwhelming and intimidating, for how could any one person—even a well-intentioned Christian—respond to the masses of humanity suffering in Africa?

## What Can I Do About Hunger?

You can make a difference—both through lifestyle changes and by leveraging your influence with others.

- Eat responsibly. Don’t overeat or waste food. Reduce or eliminate meat from your diet. Eat nutritiously and organically when possible.
- Eat locally as much as you can. Locally grown food supports area farmers, and reduces transportation costs and use of preservatives.

- Eat humanely. Animals are often raised inhumanely. Find meat and eggs from cage-free animals.
- Consider fasting so others may eat. Consider fasting from a meal or dessert. Donate the money saved to a hunger cause. Fasting is a form of prayer and puts us in solidarity with those who are hungry.
- Plant a vegetable garden. You’ll get fresh vegetables and the joy of watching your labor turn into food. Consider donating half your produce to a food bank.
- Educate yourself about food and hunger issues. Books like *The Omnivore’s Dilemma* bring light to an important topic.
- Work for systemic change. Once your diet is under control, look at food systems around you to see if they need improvement.

The bottom line? Eat responsibly, share, learn, and advocate. Keep some food in your car and don’t let it go to waste—or waist. +



*Risen Jesus, you heal our broken hearts and give us peace. Help me to be a source of encouragement to those troubled by pain and suffering.*

—From *Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter Through Pentecost*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

## WEEKDAY READINGS

May 11–16

**Monday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 14:5–18 / Jn 14:21–26

**Tuesday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 14:19–28 / Jn 14:27–31a

**Wednesday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 15:1–6 / Jn 15:1–8

**Thursday**, St. Matthias:  
Acts 1:15–17, 20–26 / Jn 15:9–17

**Friday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 15:22–31 / Jn 15:12–17

**Saturday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 16:1–10 / Jn 15:18–21

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