

Daily Homily

Saturday, 28 March 2020 ([usccb daily readings](#))

Pope Francis' *Urbi et orbi* Blessing Homily

Friday, 27 March 2020

Yesterday, at 6:00pm Rome time; 1:00pm our time Pope Francis stood in a deserted St. Peter Square and offered his *Urbi et orbi* blessing (Latin for "To the Church and to the World). This is a blessing that he only offers twice a year at the two main spiritual events that happened in the life of the Church and the world, Easter and Christmas. During this global crisis, the Holy Father wanted to deliver this extraordinary blessing now to implore God's help, to offer comfort, and to bring healing. The prayer included a scripture reading: Jesus calms the storm on the sea. The Holy Father offered a brief reflection, reproduced here. He then prayed before an icon of Mother Mary and a crucifix that was the only surviving item in a church fire. A miraculous crucifix that was processed through the streets of Rome during the plague and brought healing to the Eternal City. Then the Holy Father led us in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for silent prayer and litanies. He then took the monstrance to the front door of St. Peter Basilica and with the monstrance he blessed the Church and the world with the Eucharistic presence of Christ.

**Pope Francis' homily:**

**"Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" Faith begins when we realize we are in need of salvation. We are not self-sufficient; by ourselves we flounder: we need the Lord, like ancient navigators needed the stars. Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives. Let us hand over the fears to him so that he can conquer them. Like the disciples, we will experience that with him on board there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God's strength: turning to the good in everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies.**

**The Lord asks us and, in the midst of our tempest, invites us to reawaken and put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support, and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be floundering. The Lord awakens so as to reawaken and revive our Easter faith.**

**We have an anchor: by his cross we have been saved. We have a rudder: by his cross we have been redeemed. We have a hope: by his cross we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from his redeeming love. In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: he is risen and is living by our side.**

**The Lord asks us from his cross to rediscover the life that awaits us, to look towards those who look to us, to strengthen, recognize and foster the grace that lives within us. Let us not quench the wavering flame (Isaiah 42:3) that never falters, and let us allow hope to be rekindled.**