

# **LOOKING TO SUNDAY®**

**Sunday, February 9, 2014**

This email, entitled Looking to Sunday®, focuses on the Gospel Reading for the coming Sunday. It prepares readers to hear God's Word at Mass and it offers a point of reflection to consider in the days leading to Sunday. Looking to Sunday is written by Father Tom Iwanowski.

## **FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS**

People who are nurses, teachers, firefighters, doctors, school administrators, and police officers all have something in common. Those people do what they do for the sake of other people.

Doctors, nurses, and all who enter the health care profession do so to relieve the suffering of the sick and to cure disease.

Teachers, school administrators, and all who embark on a career in education do so to open the minds of their students to knowledge and to the wonders of the world around them.

Firefighters, police officers and all who become first responders do so to protect and serve their fellow citizens and to safeguard society.

All of them work in their particular profession for the sake of others.

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 5:13-16), part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells us that we have been blessed with faith and made his disciples for the very same reason – for the sake of other people.

Jesus tells us, "You are the salt of the earth....You are the light of the world." We are salt and light not just for our own benefit or for that of the Church but for the good of others with whom we share this world.

As salt both preserves and flavors so we are to do the same. We are to preserve society from all that corrupts and degrades human life. And we are to flavor society with lives that give witness to the joy and meaning that come with following the Gospel.

As light breaks the darkness and puts an end to the night, so we are to do the same. We are to bring light to a world darkened by war, violence, and corruption by showing forgiveness, mercy, and compassion to others, even our enemies, and by working for justice and peace.

No easy task. But each time we celebrate the liturgy, each time we hear the Word of God, each time we receive Holy Communion, we are strengthened to carry on our mission to be the salt and light that make a difference.

Health care workers who care only for themselves, educators whose only interest is their own learning, and first responders who look out just for themselves are contradictions. Equally so are Christians who are focused only on themselves. Christians are Christians for the sake of other people. Or as Jesus puts it "You are the salt of the earth....You are the light of the world."

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