

LOOKING TO SUNDAY®

Sunday, March 16, 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.

SHOW AND TELL

Show and Tell is a common activity in elementary school during which a student shows his or her classmates a particular item that the student has brought from home. The student then explains what the item is, how the student obtained it, and why it is important.

For example, a student might bring an exotic sea shell to school, show it to the class and then tell his or her fellow students the type of animal that produced the shell and how he or she found the shell during a family vacation in the Caribbean.

But Show and Tell is not limited to school children. Adults also engage in that activity but in a less formal way. For example, a person buys the latest smart phone on the market, and it is not long before that person is showing that phone to his or her coworkers and explaining its features and what sets that device apart from all others.

We like to show the things that are important to us. We even do Show and Tell when it comes to people. When we make a new friend we introduce that person to our family and other friends and tell them something about this new person who has entered our life.

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 17:1-9) for the Second Sunday of Lent, we might say that God engages in a type of Show and Tell. Matthew writes, "Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. "

In showing Jesus in this way, God reveals him to be filled with divine glory. The very glory of God that was revealed in God's dealings with the Chosen People is now seen in Jesus as he is on the mountain with his three disciples.

The appearance of Moses and Elijah further reveals Jesus to be the fulfillment of the hopes and dreams of Israel, the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets.

In addition to showing Jesus in glory, God the Father tells Peter, James, and John who their master and teacher truly is, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

God the Father then tells those who have seen the glory of Jesus and been told of his identity to "listen to him."

The Father who revealed Jesus to Peter, James and John in the Transfiguration also reveals Jesus to us. God opens our eyes to the presence of Jesus in the Mass and the Sacraments. God discloses who Jesus is through the preaching and teaching of the Church. God "shows and tells" so that we might know and follow Jesus!

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

