

# **LOOKING TO SUNDAY®**

**Sunday, May 4, 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.

## **YOU ARE THERE!**

In the mid 1950's, in the early years of television, Walter Cronkite, the legendary television news anchor, hosted a program called YOU ARE THERE. In each episode a significant event in human history was dramatically portrayed while modern day correspondents would report on the action and interview key figures. At the conclusion of each episode, Cronkite would summarize the event and then end with the words "and you were there."

It would be an amazing thing if we really could be there for the significant events of history and the great event of salvation history. Imagine if we could witness the Exodus, the giving of the Ten Commandments, the Last Supper, or the Resurrection of Jesus.

This Sunday's Gospel (Luke 24:13-35), which is about an appearance of the Risen Lord, describes an astonishing event. In that Gospel two disciples are returning home on the first Easter Sunday. They have no idea that the Lord is risen. As far as they know he is dead in the tomb and with him their hopes and dreams.

As they make their way home, burdened with grief and despair, a stranger begins to walk with them. He asks them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They respond by telling him about their crucified master. The stranger then begins to explain that all that happened was in accord with the scriptures.

As evening begins to fall the two disciples invite their traveling companion to join them for supper. At table the stranger takes, blesses, and breaks bread and in those gestures the two disciples recognize their companion to be the Risen Lord. He then vanishes from their sight. Filled with astonishment and joy they reverse their path and return to Jerusalem to share their astounding news.

Amazingly "we *are* there" at the event Luke described each time we participate in Sunday Mass. As we walk the road of life, the Risen Lord "appears" to us when we gather with our fellow Catholics on Sunday. He listens to our prayers and concerns and speaks to us through the scriptures.

As we listen to his words, we are given hope and strength and our hearts are warmed by his message. We then gather at the altar table where bread is taken, blessed, broken and shared. In that bread we recognize the presence of the Risen Lord.

Having been touched by his words and having shared at his table, we then go forth to announce the Good News. We proclaim that the Lord is risen and is with us, that we have not been forgotten by God, that death is not the end, and that life has meaning and purpose.

The resurrection appearance reported by Saint Luke in this Sunday's Gospel is one that continues at every Sunday Mass. There the Risen Lord continues to walk with his disciples, to speak to them in the Scriptures, and to feed them at his table. And "we are there!"

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*May the peace and joy of the Risen Lord  
be with you during this Easter Season!*