

LOOKING TO SUNDAY®

Sunday, May 18, 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.

THE DIVINE REALTOR?

If you were relocating to a part of the country that was completely new to you, there would be dozens of things you would need to do. Certainly one of the most critical would be to find a place to live.

You could look for a place to call home in a variety of ways. You could visit the area where you planned to move and drive through the neighborhood looking for homes that were for sale. You could explore the real estate listings in the local newspapers and other periodicals. You could search websites like Zillow and Trulia that display information about homes on the market and apartments for rent. Or you might contact a local realtor and engage that person to find you a place suited to your needs. Certainly dealing with a professional familiar with the area and the housing market might make the most sense.

This Sunday's Gospel (John 14:1-12) may leave us picturing Jesus as some type of "divine realtor." There Jesus says, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?"

Those words of Jesus have led people to think of Jesus as ascending to heaven to prepare suitable accommodations for his faithful followers. Some people have imagined magnificent mansions in the sky, rooms outfitted with every amenity, and streets paved with gold.

However, Jesus is not speaking of heavenly housing but rather of bringing us into an ever deepening relationship with God. He says, "I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be." Certainly Jesus was in no gleaming mansion in the sky, rather he was in a deep, intimate relationship with God his Father. As he says, "Believe me that I am in the Father and Father is in me." And that is where Jesus wants us to be as well.

Jesus wants us to enjoy a life-giving, everlasting relationship with him and the Father. That relationship comes about when we put our faith in Jesus and make his way of living our own. As he puts it, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through me."

A mansion in the sky might be nice to picture, but what makes a mansion or any residence a home is not its size or magnificence. It is the loving relationships that exist within its walls. Jesus the "divine realtor" is not interested in finding us a place on a gold paved street, but a place in the heart of God!

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*May you continue to experience the peace and joy of the Risen Lord
during these days of the Easter Season!*