

# **LOOKING TO SUNDAY®**

**Sunday, May 25, 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.

## **WORDS AND FEELINGS**

Words not only provide information, they can also convey certain feelings. For example, to say a person is "engaged" tells us that an individual is so loved that someone is willing to publicly commit his or her life to that person no matter what the future may hold. The word "engaged" also leaves us with a positive, joyful feeling.

But words can also convey negative feelings as well. "Widow" or "widower" is one of those words. It tells us that the love of someone's life has been stolen away by death. There is no longer a husband or wife to hold onto at night, just memories.

This Sunday's Gospel contains one of the most sorrowful nouns in the English language. That word is "orphan." That word describes children whose mothers and fathers have died or children who have been permanently abandoned by their parents.

Thinking of a little boy or girl without a mother and father to love and cherish them, to support and guide them as they grow leaves us feeling sad. Children need parents. But so do grown children. Adult children who lose their parents also feel "orphaned" when Mom and Dad, who have always been part of their lives, are gone.

In Sunday's Gospel, the disciples feel a sense of panic as Jesus speaks about his going away. He has been their teacher, their guide, their mentor, their inspiration, their source of courage and strength, the one for whom they abandoned their careers in order to be his followers. Now at the Last Supper Jesus speaks of his no longer being with them. Aware of their distress and anxiety, Jesus assures them, "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."

Jesus tells them, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth." Jesus promises not to abandon his disciples but to remain with them in a new way, no longer in flesh and blood but through the Spirit.

In fact, he says that if his disciples keep his commandments and love as he loved, that Spirit will bring them into an even more intimate relationship with him and his Father.

Like those disciples, we are not on our own trying to make it through life. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus, is with us as our mentor, our guide, our companion, our source of truth, our "Advocate." We are not orphans!

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