

# **LOOKING TO SUNDAY®**

**Sunday, June 1, 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.

## **KNOWING AND KNOWING**

Knowing about Christ and his Church is not the same thing as knowing Christ and his Church. We certainly see that borne out in the case of young adults who, despite having attended Catholic grammar school and high school, and sometimes even Catholic College, drift away from the faith.

Young people, and not so young people, can know all about the Catholic faith into which they were baptized. They can pass tests designed to measure religious knowledge. They can produce certificates showing they attended sacramental preparation classes and received First Communion and Confirmation. Yet they rarely attend Mass, they do not pray on a daily basis or read the scriptures, they are not part of a local parish, and the example of Jesus and the teachings of the Church seldom influence their decisions and actions.

Knowing facts does not lead to a relationship with Christ or for that matter with anyone else. If it did then people would simply send out detailed resumes filled with facts about themselves in order to make their friends or to choose a spouse.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus speaks about knowing him and his Father. He says, "Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ." Obviously such knowing is not a matter of having a grasp of certain theological facts but rather a matter of having a personal, intimate relationship with the Father and the Son.

We certainly see that demonstrated in Sunday's Gospel. There Jesus is at the Last Supper with his disciples, his last meeting with them before his arrest. As he is with them, he does not give them a final religion lesson. He does not give them a theological explanation of what has occurred and will happen in the days ahead. He does not give them a list of things to do when he is gone.

Instead, Jesus speaks to his heavenly Father about his beloved disciples, about those who have accepted his message and have come to realize his relationship with the Father. Jesus speaks to his Father, he prays to his Father, with words his disciples can hear. Jesus draws them into his prayer. He invites his disciples into his intimate conversation with God.

That is the essence of Christianity. It is "knowing Jesus Christ" in a personal way and being drawn into his ongoing conversation, his ongoing relationship with the Father – a relationship that extends into eternity. Such a relationship is not a matter of knowing facts about Christ, but knowing him in the same way we know the people who have a place in our hearts.

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