

# ***LOOKING TO SUNDAY®***

**Sunday, June 8, 2025**

***Pentecost Sunday***

This email, entitled Looking to Sunday®, focuses on one or more of the scripture readings 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. Looking to Sunday has been published for more than sixteen years.

## **STILL WORKING**

A booming sound like a driving wind catches the attention of the people of Jerusalem.

Flaming tongues of fire appear and come down upon each of the disciples.

These followers of Jesus then go forth and boldly proclaim the mighty works of God in words that everyone can understand.

There was no mistaking the presence and power of the Holy Spirit on that day, the first Pentecost Sunday.

The Holy Spirit would continue to work in those first disciples. It would help them to more fully understand the Gospel, begin to form them as the Church, and empower them with the gifts needed to carry on the mission of the Risen Lord.

Today, we might wonder if the power of the Spirit has diminished during the past 2,000 years. The amazing signs of the Spirit that astonished the people of Jerusalem that first Pentecost are no longer seen.

But if we look, there still are strong signs that indicate the power and action of the Holy Spirit, signs perhaps even more amazing than those recorded in Sunday's First Reading (Acts 2:1-11).

We witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit this past month when the Cardinals of the Church gathered to choose the successor to Pope Francis. Cardinal Prevost was not the expected choice, and the announcement that an American had been elected Pope left Catholics, and the world, as astonished as the people of Jerusalem were on that first Pentecost Sunday. Pope Leo XIV was a surprise of the Spirit.

We can also see the Holy Spirit, who worked in the Apostles, working in the lives of other contemporary people to build up the Church and hasten the coming of God's kingdom.

For example, Pope St. John Paul II traveled the world, courageously preached the Gospel, confronted a culture of death, and hastened the fall of Communism.

St. Teresa of Calcutta, Mother Teresa, founded a religious order to serve the poor, won the admiration of millions for her selfless service, won the Nobel Peace Prize for her ministry to suffering humanity, and challenged the rich and comfortable to see and serve those ignored by society.

Some sixty years ago, the power of the Holy Spirit was evident when over 2,000 bishops of the Church gathered for the Second Vatican Council. This Spirit-led gathering renewed the life and liturgy of the Catholic Church in ways that continue to impact us to this very day. No one could

have predicted the results that would come from this gathering, but the Spirit of God moves as it chooses.

Each time we gather for Mass, we see the wondrous power of the Holy Spirit in action as the priest prays, “Therefore O Lord, we humbly implore you by the same Spirit graciously make holy these gifts we have brought you for consecration, that they may become the Body and the Blood of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eucharistic Prayer III). The Spirit changes ordinary things into something extraordinary—the very presence of God.

We believe that this same transforming, powerful presence of the Holy Spirit has also come down upon us through our Baptism and Confirmation. That Spirit can inspire us to do good, to think of others, and to turn from sin. It can fire us up to share our faith and motivate us to use our talents for the benefit of our neighbor and for the sake of the Church.

The Spirit that dramatically came down upon the disciples that First Pentecost Sunday is still powerfully working in the Church and in our lives. *Come Holy Spirit, open our eyes to your presence!*

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