

LOOKING TO SUNDAY®

Sunday, July 19, 2015

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.

YEARNING FOR LEADERSHIP

Students need a teacher.

Workers need a boss.

A team needs a captain.

An army needs a general.

A church needs a pastor.

A city needs a mayor.

Every social grouping, every organization needs a leader. It needs a leader of integrity with the ability to inspire, to motivate, to express the truth, and to set the right direction.

People yearn for good leaders, they seek them out. We see that in this Sunday's Gospel (Mark 6:30-34). Mark tells us the people sought out Jesus "in great numbers" so much so that he and his apostles "had no opportunity even to eat."

When Jesus and his apostles tried to find some rest away from the crowd, the people followed them. When Jesus looked up and saw "the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd." They were so in need of a shepherd to lead and guide them that they were not willing to let Jesus go.

Today, we live in a society that also yearns for good leadership. We seek government leaders who can unite us and inspire us to see beyond our self-interest. We hunger for religious leaders who will powerfully preach and authentically live the Gospel. We hope for corporate leaders who will make decisions that benefit their employees and not just the bottom line. We desire academic leaders who will challenge their students and institutions to excel and to serve the common good. We wish for leaders in the media who will promote human decency, compassion, and non-violence rather than glorifying the perverse.

As followers of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, let us pray that God may bless us with such good leaders. Equally important, let us examine the kind of leadership we may be exercising at home, at school, at work, in our family, in our neighborhood, and in our society. Is it the kind of leadership that inspires people to seek us out or does it leave them yearning for a good leader?

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