

# **LOOKING TO SUNDAY®**

**Sunday, August 11, 2019**

## ***The Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time***

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 ten years.

### **MOVEMENTS MOVE US**

The voting rights movement.

The civil rights movement.

The labor movement.

Those movements were made up of people who shared certain convictions and beliefs.

The voting rights movement was composed of men and women who believed that the right to vote should not be restricted only to males or to landowners. All citizens of a certain age should be eligible to vote.

Those who were part of the civil rights movement believed that all persons regardless of race, creed, or color should have equal rights under the law.

The labor movement was made up of people who believed that workers were entitled to organize and form unions so they could advocate for safe working conditions, fair treatment, and a just wage.

Those who were part of these movements had to "move" in order to make things happen. Simply sharing common beliefs was not enough.

They had to organize and work together. They had to lobby politicians and government leaders. They had to make their case with the public. They had to protest, strike, and agitate. They had to be persistent and willing to contend with opposition.

No movement succeeds unless those who are part of it are ready and willing to act.

As Christians we are involved in a movement, the "faith movement." As members of that movement we share common convictions and beliefs. We profess those beliefs each time we say the Creed, each time we declare the scriptures to be the word of God, and each time we acknowledge the Eucharist to be the Body and Blood of Christ.

But faith cannot be only a matter of holding certain beliefs and convictions. Faith has to lead us to action; it has to motivate us to "move."

We see that in this Sunday's readings.

In our First Reading (Wisdom 18:6-9), we read how the Jewish people were moved to celebrate the Passover because they had faith that God would keep his promises.

In our Second Reading (Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-19), we hear how faith moved Abraham to literally pack up and move, uncertain where God was leading him. We hear how faith moved Abraham

to be ready to sacrifice his son, Isaac, even though that would seemingly nullify God's promise of descendants.

In the Gospel (Luke 12:32-48), Jesus tells his disciples that faith in his return should move them to be wise and prudent servants who live differently because they know what God expects of them.

Those mentioned in this Sunday's readings were people of faith who were motivated by what they believed. What was in their hearts and minds was seen in the way they "moved" through their lives.

If we are to be part of that same "faith movement" then our way of living, our interactions with others, our priorities, and the use of our time and material resources must be motivated by what we believe.

Being part of the "faith movement," like being part of any movement, means not just professing certain beliefs. It requires being "moved" into action by what we believe.

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