

LOOKING TO SUNDAY®
Sunday, November 26, 2017
The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe

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

OUR UNDERCOVER BOSS

Undercover Boss is a popular program that has been on the CBS television network since 2010. In each episode, a corporate executive of a large corporation goes undercover at his or her company.

Disguised as a low-level employee, the executive gets a first-hand look at how things are being run and how employees are performing and interacting with one another and with the customers.

Since the employees have no idea they are working side by side with their company's chief executive, they are more open and honest than they would be if they knew their boss was present.

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 25:31-46) for the Solemnity of Our Lord Christ, King of the Universe, we learn that the Lord is often an undercover boss.

We know that the Lord comes to us at specific times and in certain places. We are aware that the Lord is with us when we gather for the celebration of Mass. We believe that he speaks to us as the scriptures are proclaimed and that he comes to us in a powerful way as we share his Body and Blood in Holy Communion.

We also recognize the presence of the Lord as he brings us to rebirth in Baptism, strengthens us with his Spirit in Confirmation, forgives our sins in the sacrament of Reconciliation, gives us healing and hope in the Anointing of the Sick, and empowers us to live our vocations in the sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders.

We are also aware of the presence of the Lord in his ordained ministers and in those holy places where the liturgy is celebrated.

In those places and at those times, we act as the Christians the Lord expects us to be for we realize that he is present. We are on our best behavior.

But Jesus, our Lord and King, also comes to us undercover. He comes to us in the poor and powerless, the sick and the suffering.

In fact, at those times he comes so well disguised that he is often unrecognized by those who claim to be his followers. As those in Sunday's Gospel ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?"

It was in those who were hungry and hurting, those who were ill and imprisoned, that the Lord was present. As he explains, “what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.”

It is easy to impress our boss when we know we are being watched and evaluated, but truly good employees do impressive work when they have no idea they are being observed.

As this liturgical year of 2017 comes to a close, Sunday’s Gospel reminds us that day in and day out, year in and year out, the Lord comes into our lives. He comes in ways we expect, but most of the time he comes in unexpected ways. The Lord comes undercover. He is an Undercover Boss!

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