

LOOKING TO SUNDAY™

Sunday, January 10, 2010

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.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

An athlete appreciates hearing his or her coach say "You're a great addition to the team!"

An employee appreciates the boss going out of his way to comment "You did a super job in landing us that account!"

A teacher appreciates it when the principal remarks "You're a credit to the teaching profession."

A parent appreciates it when another adult observes "You're doing a wonderful job in raising your children."

Everyone appreciates such words of affirmation. Affirmation lets us know our efforts are recognized. Affirmation lets us know that we are appreciated. And affirmation encourages us to continue and to do even better.

This Sunday's Gospel (Luke 3:15-16, 21-22) for the Baptism of the Lord, the final day of this Christmas Season, contains striking words of affirmation. After being baptized by John, Jesus hears a voice from the heavens proclaim "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

In those words, the Father proudly affirms Jesus as his "beloved Son" and announces that he is "well pleased" with the way Jesus is loving and serving God. With those words of affirmation ringing in his ears, Jesus goes forth to proclaim the Gospel and to bring light and hope to those in darkness.

Each time the words of the Gospel are proclaimed at Mass, we might consider those words as a message of affirmation from God to us. If God did not hold us in high regard, if God did not have confidence and hope in us, God would not be addressing his words to us!

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