

# **LOOKING TO SUNDAY™**

**Sunday, January 31, 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.

## **LISTENING TO EXPERTS**

It's been said that an expert is someone from out of town who arrives carrying a briefcase. I suppose we might update that to say that an expert is someone from out of town who arrives with a power point presentation and a data projector. It seems to be a trait of human nature that we tend to pay more attention to outsiders than to people we know.

In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 4:21-30), Jesus returns to his home of Nazareth and preaches in the synagogue. We read that initially his words were well received and the people "all spoke highly of him." But it does not take long for the home town crowd to start asking "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" He's no one special. They know him. They know his father. In response Jesus remarks "No prophet is accepted in his native place."

Today some Christians take that same attitude when it comes to the teachings of Jesus and his Church. They devalue and disparage the Christian message since they have heard it since childhood. But let some "expert," some outsider come proclaiming a new age philosophy, a novel belief, an exotic religion, and they are ready to listen.

The people of Nazareth missed God's life changing message when it was addressed to them because it was spoken by a familiar voice, the voice of Jesus, the hometown boy, the one they thought was just the son of Joseph. God's life changing message continues to come to us in that same familiar voice and in that same familiar way it has come to us since childhood – through the Church, through Sunday Mass, through homilies, and through our fellow Christians. God's message most often comes to us from people who are part of our "native place."

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