

LOOKING TO SUNDAY™

Sunday, February 6, 2011

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.

LIGHTEN UP!

There are people, who when they walk into a room, bring it to life. They are outgoing, energetic, optimistic, and fun to be with it. They have a twinkle in their eyes, a smile on their face, and they search out the good in everything and the good in you. They are the type of person you want to invite into your life.

But unfortunately, there are people who do just the opposite. They draw the energy out of a room. They are uncommunicative, sullen, and smirk far more often than they smile. They are self-centered and self-absorbed, and they make you doubt that they have a positive thought in their mind about you or anyone else. They are the type of person who makes you glad, not by walking into your life, but by leaving it.

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 5:13-16), Jesus calls us to be "the salt of earth" and the "light of the world." Now, we can interpret those commands in a strictly religious sense. As salt preserves and flavors, we, as disciples of Jesus Christ, are to share the saving message of the Gospel with others. We are to bring the light of Christ to those caught in the darkness of sin. As we were told at our baptism, you "have been enlightened by Christ...walk always as a child of the light."

But before we can be that kind of "salt" and "light," we need to be people who flavor a gathering and light up a room, who make people glad we are around. That, after all, was the type of person Jesus was. If he had been sullen, uncommunicative, self-centered and self-absorbed, I doubt he would have attracted much of a following. I doubt that he would have been such a sought after dinner guest that the religious leaders of his day complained that he spent too much time eating and drinking with sinners.

As people filled with the Holy Spirit, as people saved and forgiven, as people loved to death by Jesus Christ, we should be filled with a joy that shines forth and that adds flavor to life. If we are not, most people will be unwilling to invite us into their lives to hear the Gospel message. Instead they will be relieved to see us walk out the door!

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