

LOOKING TO SUNDAY™

Sunday, February 7, 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.

ASTONISHING!

"Astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him."
(Luke 5:9)

Simon Peter and his partners were astonished. Those professional fishermen had toiled through the night and had nothing to show for their labors but dirty nets. After teaching the people, Jesus, who had used Simon's boat as a floating pulpit to address the crowd on the shore, instructs Simon to fish again. Simon lowers his nets and they so overflow with fish that his boat and that of his partners almost sink.

Yet something even more astonishing happens in this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 5:1-11). Simon Peter, recognizing his sinfulness in the presence of Jesus, the holy one who could even control the sea and all it contained, says "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." Yet Jesus does not depart, instead he invites Simon to be his follower and commissions him to "fish" for people.

Like Simon Peter, we too are sinful. We admit this during the Penitential Rite of Mass as we say "I confess to Almighty God, and to you my brother and sisters, that I have sinned." We acknowledge it during the Communion Rite as we proclaim, "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you."

Yet the Lord looks beyond our sinfulness, beyond our human limitations, and beyond past failures, and invites us to follow him ever more closely and to be his instruments in our world. Our holy God seeks out and calls admitted sinners like Simon Peter and like us. That is truly astonishing!

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