

## **LOOKING TO SUNDAY ®**

**Sunday, March 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.

### **BUILDING CODES**

When people build a house, they are subject to various local and state building codes that regulate how their new home is to be constructed. These codes specify the kind of materials that can be used, the size of windows, the placement of electrical outlets, the type of permitted wiring and plumbing, the minimum height of ceilings, the depth of the foundation, the location of exits, the required number of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, etc.

As the house is being constructed, various inspections must take place. When the house is finished, a final inspection occurs. If all is in order, the building department issues a Certificate of Occupancy certifying that the building complies with all appropriate codes and is now ready to welcome its first residents.

These building codes, which can often seem onerous, exist to ensure that houses are properly constructed and are places that will provide a safe, comfortable environment. Those codes exist for our own good.

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 7:21-27), Jesus brings his Sermon on Mount to a close by speaking of those constructing "houses." Some build on sand, others on rock.

Those who build their house, their life, on sand are those who let his words merely sound in their ears. They neglect to follow the "building code" that Jesus presents in the Gospel. When the difficulties of life rain down, when temptations flood the mind, when the wind of sin makes it difficult to walk upright, things begin to fall apart and their life ends up in ruins.

Those who build their house, their life, on rock are those who take the words of Jesus to heart. They make the words of the Divine Architect the "code" that guides their decisions and their way of living. Since their lives are built on Christ, they are able to resist the sin, the temptation, and evil that crash upon those who strive to follow the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It's not enough to know the "building code," we have to follow it! As Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven."

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