

LOOKING TO SUNDAY®

Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 14, 2017

This email, entitled Looking to Sunday®, focuses on one or more of the scripture readings 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.

WHERE'S THE PLACE?

Certain scripture passages often remind us of liturgical celebrations that we have attended.

For example, the passage from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians that says, "Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, love is not pompous, it is not inflated" (1 Corinthians 13: 4) may remind us of weddings we have attended.

The passage from Matthew where Jesus tells his disciples, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19) may trigger the memory of a child's baptism.

And the reading from Isaiah that announces, "The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength" (Isaiah 11:2) may bring to mind the confirmation of a teenager.

This Sunday, we hear a Gospel reading that may stir up less than happy memories. In this Sunday's Gospel (John 14:1-12), Jesus tells his apostles, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. ... And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be."

Those words are often heard at funerals and they are usually followed by the homilist assuring the bereaved that the deceased has been ushered into a magnificent mansion in the heavens.

Yet if we look at the entire passage proclaimed this Sunday, we see that the place to which Jesus is referring is not in some heavenly realm, but it is the place where he is. That "place" is a relationship with the Father. "Believe me that I am in the Father and Father is in me."

Jesus wants to bring us into that loving, life-giving relationship with the Father. As Jesus tells us, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

By spending time with Jesus, by learning more about him, by reading his words in the scriptures, by sharing his life in the Eucharist, by being part of his Church, by meeting him in the Sacraments, by touching him in the poor and the powerless, we can grow in our relationship with him and so grow in our relationship with God our Father.

We do not have a God beyond our reach but one who sent us his Son so that we might have a way to come to him. God our Father wants us to have a dwelling place in his heart today!

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*May the peace and joy of the Risen Lord
be with you during this Easter Season!*