

## ***LOOKING TO SUNDAY®***

**Sunday, May 15, 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.

### **A BETTER LIFE**

The relationships we make, the items we buy, the schools we attend, the places where we live, the degrees we pursue, the entertainment we frequent, the doctors we visit, the gyms we join, etc. are chosen for various reasons. However, there may be one underlying reason for most of the choices we make in our life.

We choose the things we do because we believe they will make our life better. For example, none of us would pursue a relationship if we felt that relationship would bring us heartbreak. None of us would visit a doctor if we thought that doctor's care would make our condition worse. None of us would choose a school if we believed that institution would leave us unprepared for the future. None of us, if we were truly free, would choose anyone or anything, unless we thought that person or thing would better our life in some way.

Today, many Catholics have drifted away from Sunday Mass and from the Church, including some of our relatives and friends. There are a variety of reasons why those people no longer come to Sunday Mass. They may feel unwelcomed or ignored when they come through the door. They may consider the music too loud or too slow, or too contemporary or too traditional. They may complain the homilies are disjointed and irrelevant. They may judge that the parish is too liberal or too conservative. They may claim the congregation seems lifeless and that even the priest looks bored. They may say that after missing a few Sundays, they just drifted away. They may decide that something else has a greater claim to their time on Sunday morning.

While those are some of the reasons that people may give, perhaps the basic reason that people stop coming to Mass is because they feel that attending Mass does not make their life better in any way.

In this Sunday's Gospel (John 10:1-10), Jesus, in speaking of himself as one who cares for his sheep, says "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." Jesus says that he came to make human life better.

Jesus does that by revealing life's meaning and purpose, by offering us a personal relationship with God, by connecting us with our fellow Christians, by allowing us to move beyond our past failings and to start again, by touching our heart and our soul in the liturgy, by being our constant companion in life's journey, and by offering us hope beyond the grave.

If people feel that coming to Mass does not make their life better, they gradually just stop coming. We, who do come, have to witness how Sunday Mass makes our life better. How being with Jesus Christ and his Church makes our life richer and more abundant.

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