

LOOKING TO SUNDAY®

Sunday, May 20, 2012

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.

PRAYER REVEALS

When you pray, what do you ask of God?

Our response to that question reveals a great deal about us. It reveals our anxieties and concerns, our hopes and dreams. It reveals the people who have a special place in our heart and those people about whom we worry. It reveals our priorities in life and the depth of our relationship with God.

Our prayer reveals a great deal about us. Perhaps that is the reason that most of our personal prayers remain silent and are rarely spoken aloud before others.

In this Sunday's Gospel (John 17:11-19), Jesus prays at the Last Supper. He prays aloud to his heavenly Father for the disciples who are gathered with him.

In his prayer, Jesus prays that his disciples may be protected from the world that surrounds them. Not the physical world created by God, but the world of selfishness, darkness, lust, envy, materialism, and hate created by human sin.

Jesus prays that his disciples may be one just as he and the Father are one. He asks that his followers will be known for their mutual love and concern, by their willingness to forgive, and by their ability to sacrifice for the sake of one another.

Jesus prays that his disciples will share his joy. The joy that fills the lives of those who truly appreciate the depth of the Father's love and their place in God's design.

Jesus prays that his disciples will go into the world and boldly live and proclaim the truth that he revealed. The Gospel truth that contradicts a society that says all truth is relative and passing and morality is no more than personal preference.

That personal prayer of Jesus reveals his hopes and concerns for his disciples and for us as well – that we be untouched by the darkness of the world, united in mutual love, joyful in our relationship with God, and bold in living the truth. May our lives be an answer to his prayer!

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May the peace of the Risen Lord be with you this Easter Season!