

LOOKING TO SUNDAY®

Sunday, May 27, 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.

SPIRIT EXPERIENCES

A roaring wind whipping through the streets of Jerusalem.

Flaming tongues of fire dancing above the heads of the disciples.

The Risen Lord walking through locked doors and breathing upon his awe struck disciples as they are huddled in the upper room.

Those are the ways the scriptures describe the coming of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:1-11, John 20:19-33) But such comings of the Spirit are not within our own experience.

But we have had experiences of "spirit" that can give us some insight into what the Holy Spirit does in our life and in the life of the Church.

For example, we have experienced school spirit. A spirit that brings together the members of the student body and fills them with pride for their alma mater.

We have experienced team spirit. A spirit that so fires up fans that they yell themselves hoarse in urging their team to victory. That spirit motivates some to even paint their faces and dye their hair in their team's colors.

We have experienced the *esprit de corps* that binds together soldiers on a battlefield and workers in a plant and drives them to sacrifice for the sake of their military unit or for the good of the company. That spirit creates group morale and spurs on people to achieve their goal.

We have had experiences of being influenced and touched by such spirits. Those experiences can help us to understand the action of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit unites believers as the Church, the living Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit fires up the Church to give praise and thanks to God, the source of every blessing. The Holy Spirit inspires the Church to tell others of Christ and to proclaim the fullness of life that comes with a relationship with him. The Holy Spirit motivates the Church to reconcile people separated from God and from others by sin, selfishness, prejudice, hatred, and distrust. The Holy Spirit that Jesus breathes on his Church brings it to life as surely as the breath of God gave life to the one formed from clay in the Book of Genesis.

Come, Holy Spirit, help us to put aside our fears, our concern for the opinion of others, our desire to conform, and our embrace of society's values. Bring us together! Fire us up! Spur us on! Bring us to life!

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