

LOOKING TO SUNDAY®

Sunday, May 29, 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.

WHERE GOD IS

"Where is God?" If you were to ask that question of a little child, he or she might point upward and say "God is up in heaven."

If you were to ask an older child that same question, that boy or girl might point to his or her parish church, and say "God is in church, that's God's house."

If you were to ask an adult that question, that person might answer that God can be found in the scriptures, in the sacraments, and in other people.

Each one of those answers is correct. God is in heaven, in church, in the scriptures, in the sacraments, and in other people. We can point to those things and people as places where God may be found.

But I doubt any of us if we were asked "Where is God?" would point to ourselves and say "God is right here, in me." Yet this Sunday's Gospel (John 14:15-21) might lead us to give that answer.

There Jesus says, the Father will give us "the Spirit of truth...you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you." Then Jesus goes on to say, "I will come to you...you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you."

Those words in the Gospel indicate that God dwells within us. That is something that begins with the Sacrament of Baptism by which we become children of God, members of the Body of Christ, and dwelling places of the Holy Spirit. We are reminded that God is in us each time we receive the Eucharist. We are united with Christ in one "holy communion" as he comes to us in consecrated bread and wine.

God dwells within us, and God's presence becomes more and more apparent the more we love God and keep the commandments that Jesus Christ has given us. As he says "Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me." In a verse that follows Sunday's Gospel, Jesus makes that same point even more forcefully "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him." (John 14:23)

And what are his commandments, what are his words, but to love as he loved, to forgive as he forgave, to serve as he served. The more we do those things the more the presence of God shines forth from us.

"Where is God?" To answer that question we can point to heaven. We can point to the church and to others. But just as surely, if we are keeping God's word, we can point to ourselves!

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