

LOOKING TO SUNDAY™

Sunday, June 27, 2010

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.

ROUTE 70 WEST

A few days ago, I drove from Normand Beach, New Jersey to visit my parents in Glen Mills, Pennsylvania. I began by entering my destination into my GPS. Then I started out on my 94 mile drive.

For nearly 40 miles of that trip I was on Route 70 West that cuts through the Pinelands of New Jersey. The road seemed endless. After you have looked at a mile or two of pine trees, you have seen more than enough. The thing that made my drive bearable was that I had a destination in mind. I was going somewhere. I was going to see my parents in their new home in Maris Grove, an independent living community.

In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 9:51-62), Jesus sets out a journey to Jerusalem. In fact, Luke writes that Jesus "resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem." That journey is described in the next ten chapters of Luke's Gospel.

In Jerusalem, Jesus would confront the forces of darkness and sin. In Jerusalem, he would suffer crucifixion and death and show himself as the faithful and obedient Son of God. In Jerusalem, Jesus would fulfill the purpose for which he came into the world.

In Sunday's Gospel, we also hear how Jesus calls people to follow him on his journey to Jerusalem. And today, he does the same. Jesus still calls people to follow him. He calls people to live the Gospel and to turn from those things that keep them from being his faithful disciples.

Following Jesus will cost us something. Jesus makes that perfectly clear. But perhaps what is not so clear is that not following Jesus has an even greater cost. That cost is living a life that seems like an endless succession of days without meaning and purpose, and without the presence and love of God.

It's Jesus who gives us a destination. It's Jesus who gives meaning to life. Without Jesus Christ, life is like an endless journey through the Pinelands, like an endless journey on Route 70 West.

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