

LOOKING TO SUNDAY®

Sunday, July 10, 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.

JUST SOW!

If you were to look at a group of strangers, it would be impossible just by looking at them to pick out those who were the first born in their families, or those who had graduated from a Catholic high school, or those whose cholesterol count was under 200. You would need more than your eyesight to make the right determination.

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 13:1-9), Jesus tells a parable about a person who goes out sowing seed. That person sows some seed on the pathway, some on rocky ground, some among the thorns, and finally some on fertile soil, where it produces a marvelous harvest.

But why did that person not sow his seed only on the rich, fertile soil, instead of throwing it in places where it would bear no fruit? Perhaps the answer lies in the fact that the fertile soil was not so apparent, not so evident. If it were, the sower would have cast seed only on the good ground.

The same thing is true when it comes to judging what people are open and ready to hear God's word and become part of God's kingdom. That word, that invitation, needs to be proclaimed everywhere, to everyone. Even to those we think unlikely to receive it.

It just may be that the young adult adorned with tattoos, or the hedge fund manager seemingly awash with material success, or the person who has drifted from one intimate relationship to another, is that fertile ground now ready to receive the message of the Gospel.

Our task as followers of Jesus Christ is not to determine where the good ground may be found, but simply to share the word, share our faith, with all we meet.

Just as we cannot pick out certain kinds of people from a crowd of strangers just by looking at them, so we cannot pick out those who may be ready to listen to the word of God. Sunday's Gospel calls us to sow the seed and then leave the rest to God. God determines the harvest, we just sow the seed.

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