

# **LOOKING TO SUNDAY™**

## **Sunday, July 11, 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.

### **REASON OR HEART**

"Why did you do that?" If someone asked us that question, we would be able to give a reason why we acted as we did. We do things with a reason in mind, usually for what we consider a good reason.

For example, we stop our car at an intersection because the traffic signal is red and we want to avoid hitting another vehicle.

We go to work each day because we need to earn a living.

We pay our utility bills because we want our electric, gas, and water service to continue.

We do things for a reason. In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 10:25-37), Jesus tells the well-known parable of the Good Samaritan in which a priest and a Levite fail to help a man who has been robbed, beaten, and left for dead. In fact the priest and Levite cross the road to avoid even coming near him.

If someone had asked them why they acted as they did, they might have said:

- They were afraid that the robbers who attacked the man were laying in wait, ready to pounce on anyone who stopped to help.
- They wanted to avoid ritual impurity by touching a person who might be dead.
- They were on a tight schedule; surely the next passerby would stop to help.
- They felt it best not to get involved. They had no connection with the man. He was not family. He might even be a Gentile.
- They were not medically skilled or equipped to help.

The priest and Levite had their reasons, logical reasons, for doing nothing to help.

However, the Samaritan, a person that the priest and Levite would have looked upon with hostility and contempt, did stop. He stopped not because he had a good reason but because he felt mercy and compassion for the victim he saw on the way to Jericho.

It is interesting to consider that earlier in the Gospel we are told, "You shall love the Lord, your God." The next phrase then tells us how. It says "with all your heart." Only later does it mention "and with all your mind."

That same thing apparently holds true for love of neighbor. It seems to require that we be motivated by our heart far more than by our mind. Certainly that is how the Good Samaritan acted. He acted not because he had a good reason in mind, but because he had a good and compassionate heart!

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