

LOOKING TO SUNDAY™

Sunday, August 16, 2009

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.

TRUE LOVE GIVES ITS FLESH & BLOOD

“Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood you do not have life within you.” (John 6: 53) That statement shocked the Jews who first heard it and even today those words of Jesus about giving his flesh and blood can prove challenging.

Yet haven't we seen people give their flesh and blood so that others might have life?

During the events of 9/11 we witnessed heroic acts as first responders gave their lives. They put their flesh and blood on the line to save people they did not even know.

Each Memorial Day, we as Americans pay tribute to the members of our military who sacrificed their lives so they we might live free. They spilled their blood for the sake of their fellow citizens.

And not so dramatic, yet equally true, in the sacrament of marriage, a man and woman each give their flesh and blood to one another. In doing so, each one enriches the life of the other.

On the cross Jesus gave his “flesh for the life of the world” (John 6:51) He poured out his blood in utter faithfulness to God so they we might have a new relationship with the Father, so that we might have eternal life.

In the Eucharist, Jesus continues to give us his flesh and blood, but now sacramentally in the form of bread and wine.

Jesus gives us his body and blood because that is what true love does. True love gives its all, even its flesh and blood.

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