

## ***LOOKING TO SUNDAY*™**

### **Sunday, September 13, 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.

#### **ONLY HALF RIGHT**

Peter only gets things "half right" in this Sunday's Gospel (Mark 8:27-35). After listening to reports of what people were saying about him, Jesus asks his disciples "but who do you say that I am?" Peter gives the right answer, "You are the Christ."

But as the passage continues it becomes evident that Peter's right answer involves a wrong understanding. For Peter, the Christ, the Messiah, would be the one to free the Chosen People from the yoke of Rome and restore their national greatness. Yet Jesus teaches that as the Christ he would be rejected by the religious authorities of his own people and be put to death.

Peter could not understand such a suffering Messiah. Jesus told Peter "you are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." (Mark 8:33)

We are often like Peter when it comes to understanding Jesus and understanding what it means to be his disciples. We accept a Messiah of glory, one who sets things right, one who conquers the powers of darkness and evil. As followers of such a Messiah we are ready to share his victory, after all we live in a society that glorifies success.

But Jesus, our Messiah, also suffers rejection and the cross and he tells us that those who wish to follow him must deny themselves. They must take up the cross that comes with making the values of the Gospel the rule of their life.

Like Peter it's easy for us to get things just half right when it comes to understanding and following Jesus, the Christ.

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