

LOOKING TO SUNDAY™

Sunday, October 3, 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.

A FLYING TREE

Have you ever seen a mulberry tree fly through the air and crash into the sea? I certainly have not. Yet in this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 17: 5-10) Jesus says "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

That leads to the conclusion that there must be a tremendous lack of faith in this world or maybe we are missing the point that Jesus is trying to make.

Perhaps Jesus is trying to help us realize that faith, even in small amounts, can move things far more challenging than any deep rooted mulberry tree – faith can move the human heart. Just consider the facts.

Faith in Jesus Christ motivates men and women to volunteer in soup kitchens and in homeless shelters.

Faith in Jesus Christ leads teachers to forgo higher salaries to work in struggling Catholic Schools.

Faith in Jesus Christ impels people to stand outside abortion clinics and proclaim the sanctity of human life.

Faith in Jesus Christ inspires people to give a year or more of their life as a Jesuit Volunteer or as a member of the Peace Corps.

Faith in Jesus Christ encourages people to work for peace and justice despite their being seen as naive and unrealistic.

Faith in Jesus Christ leads people to enter seminaries and convents and to embrace roles of lay ministry in the Church.

Faith in Jesus Christ convinces people to forgive an unfaithful spouse and to welcome home a wayward child.

Faith in Jesus Christ persuades people to stay connected to the Catholic Church despite its scandals and weaknesses.

And it is faith in Jesus Christ that bring us to Mass Sunday after Sunday even if the preacher may be dull, the music flat, and the sense of community less than inviting.

The power of faith has moved us and countless millions of Christians to live as servants of God. That is a far more powerful proof of what faith can do than any flying mulberry tree.

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