

# **LOOKING TO SUNDAY™**

## **Sunday, October 4, 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.

### **LONELY NO MORE**

The loneliness of the teenager whose cell phone never rings, who is labeled a "loser" by his peers.

The loneliness of the "not so young adult" whose search for "Mr. Right" has taken her through every social network without success.

The loneliness of the disabled worker whose only company is a visiting nurse.

The loneliness of the elderly woman who has outlived family and friends.

There are few things, if any, as emotionally painful as loneliness, as feeling alone in a world full of people. God himself proclaims as much in this Sunday's first reading. After creating man God says "It is not good for the man to be alone." (Genesis 2:18)

This human need for companionship is most deeply satisfied in marriage. A relationship brought into existence through God's creation of woman, that "suitable partner" for man.

In this Sunday's Gospel (Mark 10:2-12), Jesus speaks of that special relationship. "But from the beginning of creation, *God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.* So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate."

In those words, Jesus proclaims the sacredness and permanence of that relationship in which a man and woman each give their heart and future into the keeping of the other.

Love once promised and given in marriage is never to be revoked, just as God's love for us is never revoked. In fact, God's love is so permanent that it remains even if we do not live up to the ideal of marriage proclaimed in the Gospel. God, who has joined himself to us in Jesus Christ, never divorces himself from his people.

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