

## **LOOKING TO SUNDAY™**

**Sunday, October 31, 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.

### **SHORT TO TALL**

Halloween is a day when people change their appearances. They put on costumes and masks and parade around as action heroes, rock stars, movie idols, politicians, ghosts, goblins, sinners, and some even as saints. The better the costume the less the person looks like him or herself.

This Sunday, which happens to be Halloween, we hear a Gospel (Luke 19:1-10) about a person who changes "appearance." At the start of the Gospel passage Zacchaeus is described as a short man while at the end he seems to stand tall, not physically but spiritually.

Zacchaeus goes from being a dishonest tax collector and someone despised as a traitor by his fellow Jews to a man who publically vows to give 50% of all his possessions to the poor and to repay those he has cheated four times as much as he pocketed for himself.

Zacchaeus changed because in Jesus he came in contact with unconditional love and acceptance. Zacchaeus had been driven to climb a tree to glimpse Jesus because the hostile crowd had pushed Zacchaeus to the rear. Jesus sees him and says "Zacchaeus come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house."

Jesus singles out the despised and sinful Zacchaeus. Jesus shows him unmerited love and acceptance. He even decides to stay at his house, to keep company with him. That love and acceptance radically transforms Zacchaeus.

The same remains true today. The thing that most changes us is not what we put on, or the things we claim as our own, or the position we achieve. We are most changed when someone loves us fully, completely, unconditionally. When someone tells us "I must stay at your house."

That is what Jesus told Zacchaeus and that is what Jesus tells us when we listen to his Word and when he comes to us in the Bread and Wine of the Eucharist. "I must stay at your house."

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