

LOOKING TO SUNDAY™

Sunday, November 21, 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.

YOU WOULD KNOW!

If the President of the United States were visiting your town, you would certainly know it! Secret Service agents would be on the scene. Streets would be closed to traffic. Emergency vehicles would be strategically parked throughout the area. Police officers would be present on every corner and even on rooftops. There would be correspondents from CNN, FOX NEWS, ABC, NBC, AND CBS interviewing residents and reporting every move by the President. American flags would be on display everywhere you looked. Students would be off from class and many businesses would be closed. Excitement would be in the air.

When a president or any world leader makes an appearance signs of his or her prestige, dignity, and office are on display. The more powerful the leader, the greater the display of power and position.

This Sunday the Church Year of 2010 comes to a close with the celebration of the feast of Christ the King. We might imagine this Sunday's Gospel would highlight the power and majesty of Jesus Christ, yet the reading (Luke 23:35-32) depicts Jesus dying upon the cross with the mocking inscription "This is the King of the Jews" hung above his head.

When this king appears there are no grand displays and signs of power. His life begins in a humble stable and ends in agony upon a cross with shouts of derision from Roman soldiers and Jewish leaders flying through the air.

Christ the King proclaims his position not in the ways we associate with power and authority but rather in weakness. This king puts aside privilege. This king serves. This king washes feet. This king humbles himself. This king obeys rather than commands. Yet of all kings or presidents or prime ministers no one is greater than Christ the King. So humble and lowly is this king that his presence can be easily missed just as it was that first Good Friday.

And that is true today. We want Christ, we want God, to display power and greatness, to move mountains, to end terrorism and war, to abolish hunger, to make all things just and right. Yet as we see from Sunday's Gospel, Christ our King more often displays his power in ways that the world sees as weakness.

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