

LOOKING TO SUNDAY™

Sunday, December 6, 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.

A FACT NOT FICTION

"Once upon a time in a far away land..." When a story begins like that we know we are involved in fiction.

This Sunday's Gospel (Luke 3:1-6) contains specific political, religious, and geographical references that let us know that what we hear is not fiction, but fact.

Luke reports that "in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert."

In the year 28 AD, impelled by the power God, John the Baptist appeared "proclaiming a baptism of repentance" so that people might recognize "the salvation of God" made present in Jesus Christ.

As this Gospel is proclaimed in our day, the word of God calls us to turn from sin so that we might see the transforming power of God in our world and in our own life. For God continues to make winding ways straight and rough ways smooth.

In other words, this Sunday's Gospel proclaims that in the first year of the presidency of Barak Obama, as Jon Corzine is governor of New Jersey and David Paterson, governor of New York, and Benedict XVI, Pope of Rome, and John Myers, Archbishop of Newark, the word of God comes through the Church, through prophetic men and women, and through stirrings in our heart, calling us to recognize and embrace the life-changing power of Jesus Christ. That's a fact!

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