



SSPX



Regina Coeli Report

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Putting Sports in Its Place

Relaxation and leisure are an important piece of the pie of human existence. Men often wonder how a busy mom of 5 or 10 kids roaming around her skirt may find her R&R. Yet, they see her beaming with joy and relaxation, heading her little troop. Yes, it is a pleasure for a good mom to run her flock or her good husband to relish the visible fruits of his labor. This is because love is at the heart of their action and they are living to the full their God-given mission.

Yet, most mortals on earth yearn for some diversion from the day-to-day drudge. Especially, youngsters sense the urge to flex their muscles against a worthy opponent or to team up for a friendly contest. This is also an important part of their physical, psychological, and social development. It is thought

that kids who take games seriously are the ones best prepared for the ropes of adulthood. Does this mean that grown-ups who take games too seriously are receding into childhood? Whatever the answer, it is true that modern life calls for some distraction from stress and work, especially work remote from real things and real people.

This year, there are fewer and fewer people interested in watching a good game, partly a consequence of fan-less stadiums, but also perhaps because of the politics involved. In any case, this might be the chance for youngsters—and less young—to hit the grass and kick the ball, which, after all, is probably one of the best thing they can do to properly re-create.

Letter from the District Superior



Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure for me to write this first letter to you as I assume the duty of Superior for our US District. Some of the older folks may recognize my name as this is the second time I am placed in charge. I left the District House in 2008 to tend to St. Mary's, KS and then, to the District in the Antipodes where Kangaroos—not to speak of a few humans—run wild!

This is a great honor and burden and I shall need all your prayers and support to continue in the footsteps of our dear Fr. Wegner who, literally, spent himself on the field caring for lay and religious alike for six eventful years. We wish him well as he heads to Austria's capital which, after the US, will feel like a sabbatical to him. Yet, we will make sure that he keeps using his great talents for our District, especially on the largest project in hand, the building of St. Mary's Immaculata Church.

The past spring and summer have been challenging for many families, trying to offset the morbid fixation on the epidemic. It seemed to have blotted out all essential human activity, like being parents, getting proper vacation and outdoor activity, going to church and school, and keeping a healthy work ethic. It is high time to push the reset button; otherwise, chaos will set in everywhere, as we have witnessed in some cities. Man is a creature of habit, and any major disruption of the population plunges millions of unprepared souls downwards. The past Rosary and Mass crusade organized at the District level was done to offset the physical, and worse, spiritual evil which we have witnessed all around us.

And, thank God, despite its faults and woes, our little Society of Saint Pius X has held its ground. Our priests are present in all major metropolises of the country, often alone in offering the Holy Sacrifice for the living and the dead, for those present and absent, for sinners that they convert and for their good that they may be saints. This year, our Superior General, Fr. Pagliarani, will be gathering crowds at Lourdes to commemorate the golden jubilee of the foundation of our Society of Saint Pius X. Fifty years of normal existence for a burgeoning institute is quite a thing—fifty years of ecclesiastical "*sturm und drang*" sounds like heroism.

With our hearts lifted to God for his mercies and benevolence, let us all renew our devotion to our dear founder the Archbishop whose remains will be moved this September to the crypt under Ecône's church, and let us utter this wish to His Society: "*Ad multos annos!*"

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John D. Fullerton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fr. John Fullerton



Play Ball!

Summer brings immediately to mind many pastimes, though perhaps none is more revered in the United States than the great sport of baseball. Many look forward to the start of the college and professional football seasons while others content themselves with a variety of seasonal sporting activities such as sailing, biking, and racing. Whatever sport we choose to follow or play instills excitement and sometimes more than a bit of heartache. Taken too far, less savory emotions can spring forth (although that matter can be set aside for the time being).

Here, in the midst of 2020 and the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, things are not running their normal course. Major League Baseball is back, albeit with a truncated schedule that risks being derailed as the virus sweeps through team locker rooms. Many schools, including colleges, have suspended sports this fall and recreational leagues, open to a wider public, are also hesitant to play due to concerns over social distancing. Things shall, by the Grace of God, return to normal, but that truth seems to do little to quell ongoing anxieties.

For Catholics, particularly those with school-aged children, all sports present an opportunity not merely for this or that athlete to demonstrate their superior physical skill, but to learn crucial lessons that will assist them on life's way. Team sports such as baseball and football instill the importance of teamwork (coordinating plays), discipline (training and eating right), obedience (to coaches and referees alike), and humility (in the face of loss). These

same traits can assist young Catholics in growing into adults capable of coordinating with and leading others; taking the time necessary to do a job right; and accepting loss not as a final defeat or a source of shame, anger, or fear, but rather a chance to learn an important lesson, get back on, and fight another day.

While sports have been a part of Western civilization since the beginning, it may surprise some Catholics to learn how much of a role they have played in Christian history. Many are aware of certain degenerate sports enjoyed by Greco-Roman



culture such as gladiator and animal fights that sent Christians to their death. Following the conversion of the Roman Empire, steps were taken to eliminate these and other senselessly violent games. And with the steady conversion of Europe, Eurasia, the Middle East, and Africa, cultures that derived pleasure from barbarity gradually phased out such entertainments. (This is not, of course, to say that periods where dangerous competition was revered did not reappear over the centuries.)

A recent Vatican document, *Giving the Best of Yourself: A Document on the Christian Perspective on Sport and the Human Person*, rebukes the prejudice, common among some of Christianity's detractors, that the Faith is inherently inimical toward the body and physical activity. Without endorsing all of the document's contents, it deserves recognition for correcting the notion that hatred of the body (a common element of various Gnostic heresies) is a Catholic ideal. Setting aside time for play and recreation is not a modern concept, but rather one with medieval roots which was later taken up by

the Jesuits as they established schools all over the world.

This hardly means that sports or the desire for recre-

ation cannot lead to excesses. Professional sports in America have been routinely criticized for prioritizing fame and fortune over athletic virtue. Professional athletes, once looked upon as heroes by young people, too often squander that status by engaging in immoral behavior off the field. Other vices, ranging from drinking to gambling, are too commonly associated with professional sports and scandals involving doping (that is, the use of illegal chemical substances to enhance performance) still cast a black cloud over the integrity of numerous games and competitions. Not even the Olympics, once thought to be the pinnacle sporting event in the world, have been spared.

The weakness and follies of human beings, however, should not detract us from the continuing value of sports. Most are played at the amateur level, whether at school or the backyard. Solitary physical activities such as swimming and racing build up personal strength and focus. Even those not endowed by God with natural athleticism or remarkable strength can still, through the biological gifts He has given us, build themselves up and enjoy rigor of physical activity while the mind, hopefully, relaxes.

And so whether you can bench press 300 lbs. or only jog for a half mile; whether you can hit the ball out of PNC Park in Pittsburgh, PA or find yourself playing deep-left field in a St. Marys, KS softball game; and whether you follow professional sports or are content to take a long hike in nature, thanks is always due to God for the physical gifts He has given us and for making sports part of our Catholic heritage.





Play Ball!

Interview with Fr. Michael McMahon

Father please give us some background into your involvement with sports.

My dear dad (RIP) was a great athlete, playing both baseball and basketball at the University of Connecticut. He spent many hours playing with us, an excellent way for a father to lay the groundwork for building a strong relationship with his children. His three sons played in college, one football (University of New Hampshire), the second basketball (University of Pennsylvania), and I played basketball at Yale University. Serious athletes at a high level, yet my parents set our priorities straight.

How did they ensure the order and balance?

We were highly encouraged to read, for example, to have a diversity of interests. The Catholic Faith and its defense in this time of crisis was a backdrop to my entire youth. We discussed serious topics in an intelligent fashion. The proper hierarchy was always clear: 1) the Faith, 2) our studies, and only then games. Here are some vivid, illustrative memories: at eleven, I misbehaved by talking back and was not permitted to play an important basketball game; after an enormous state play-off victory, I was, nevertheless, back afterwards studying for a calculus test! Also, in high school, on the #1-ranked baseball team in the state, a postponed game was re-scheduled for Good Friday. I refused to play to the consternation of a disbelieving coach, but an edifying example to teammates. My parents did such a good job of making things clear that I willingly accepted the fact of missing that game. Surely, I was disappointed, but never on Good Friday!



Fr. Michael McMahon

Would you elaborate on the importance of sports for a young person?

Given that God created human nature composed of an immortal soul united to a physical body, both must be properly formed according to the Divine Plan. While the spiritual substance is made in the image and likeness of God, that essential material element, meant to serve and aid the soul in an ordered

and balanced partnership, cannot be neglected. With the gross disruption of original sin, this partnership has become a raging civil war to paraphrase the Apostle, making a proper formation and aggressive plan of submission of body to soul an even more necessary element in the formation of a man. Therefore, besides prudent mortification, serious physical exercise is especially important.

Where do sports come in?

Essential exercise, as well as motor skill development lie at the foundation of any sport. With man, however, the soul is engaged and must be formed as well. Many are the benefits, some of the important being: goals, depth, sacrifice, common good and teamwork. While these should be taught and emphasized elsewhere, they are quite enjoyably taught through sport. Like good literature enlightening through an entertaining style and story, enjoyment attracts. A brief explanation will demonstrate the importance of our children acquiring these skills and the way sport facilitates the acquisition.

Developing the skills necessary for successful participation demands a commitment to the goals, goals neither easily nor immediately attained. Sometimes years are necessary in an arduous ascent to competence and mastery. Sanctity and salvation demand the same! Superficiality, the bane of modern existence, is excluded since one must acquire a reasonable depth in the particular skill set of any sport. Sacrifice of time and sublimation of individual desires are key elements in team sports which foster dedication to and service of the common good.

We must remember that sports is only successful in the context of the whole man being formed, guided by experienced pedagogues, grace perfecting a well-formed nature.

Did you see results?

We certainly had some fine athletes and teams, acceptances into excellent universities and academic awards, but most important, 16 young men who passed through our balanced program are now “playing” in the greatest game of all, seeking the salvation of souls as ordained ministers of God, priests for eternity. *Deo gratias!*



In Warners, NY, the Mater Dei Saints took the field against Our Lady of Mount Carmel's Templars from Ontario in a series of competitions.

Even the steadily rising summer temperatures in Phoenix, AZ cannot keep energetic Our Lady of Sorrows Academy students from working hard. PE is a practice in perseverance!



The Mater Dei Academy (Warners, NY) Varsity Soccer Team poses with their coach, Fr. Michael Brown.



The “White Caps” from Michigan ventured south to the Volleyball tournament in Walton Kentucky for the first time this year. After playing for 10 hours in 90-degree heat, they won the B division, bringing home a trophy and medals. It was a wonderful time to meet and compete with other Catholic players from all over the country.

The 11-12 grade boys at St. Vincent de Paul Academy in Kansas City made catapults as a lab project for Fr. Graves’ physics class.



The Forty Holy Martyrs Intramural Ultimate Frisbee Tournament was won by the 9th and 10th grade boys in Kansas City.



In answer to the need for additional space for St. Vincent de Paul Academy, the Tracy Avenue building, located a half a mile from the existing Academy, was purchased in 2018. Beginning in the 2020-21 school year, it will be home to the K - 12 girls, and K - 6 boys. A large crew of volunteers gathered Friday, July 3, for the big move from the Flora Avenue building to Tracy Avenue.

St. Vincent de Paul High school girls and boys have given their time this summer helping to get the new school ready for a move-in date of Friday, July 3.



After nearly 28 years of residence in Kansas City, the Angelus Press warehouse has moved to its new home in St. Marys, KS. High school boys from St. Vincent's spent a week packing and loading the warehouse contents (more than 80 pallets of books), shelving, and furnishings onto trucks destined for the new warehouse in St. Marys.





The second annual North American Martyrs Intramural Wiffle Ball Tournament Championship in Kansas City, MO was won by the Honky Tonky Donkeys.



Trail Life Troop AZ1571 from Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Phoenix poses for a group photo in the shade of a saguaro cactus during a troop hike at South Mountain in Phoenix, AZ.



On Sunday, June 14, at 12:30 pm, the Fiat young adult group from St. Therese's Church in Nicholville, NY held a Rosary Rally at the traffic junction near Maple Street in Potsdam, NY. The purpose of this rally was to pray for heavenly intercession and blessings for the ongoing court case regarding Religious Discrimination during the COVID-19 pandemic.



A Christ the King Procession from Immaculate Conception Church winds its way through the streets of Post Falls, ID. Approximately 800 faithful followed their Eucharistic King in this public profession of faith.



On the Anniversary of Roe vs Wade on January 22, 2020, pro-life Catholics from Immaculate Conception Church prayed 15 decades of the Rosary, lining the streets of Post Falls, ID. Over 550 people participated despite the rain and snow.

On October 13, 2019, over 600 faithful from Immaculate Conception Church joined in a Rosary March—walking through the streets of Coeur d’Alene, ID, to Lake Coeur d’Alene praying the Rosary and singing hymns.



First communicants from St. Mary's Assumption Church in St. Louis, MO, pose with the Franciscan Sisters who prepared them for this great sacrament.



On August 2 (the Feast of the Portiuncula), seven of the sisters at the Franciscan convent of Christ the King in Kansas City renewed their vows.

Faithful from the Shrine of Saint Philomena in Miami together with parishioners from Our Lady of Victory in South Florida joined in a public procession on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi.



International Pilgrimages

SSPX 50th Anniversary Lourdes Celebration Pilgrimage Southern France Marian Shrines and First Christians

October 16-27, 2020

Travel from Lyon to Lourdes giving thanks to God, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints for these remarkable 50 years of preservation of Catholicism. Attend the SSPX 50th anniversary celebrations in Lourdes with faithful from around the world. Also visit La Salette, Laus, Lourdes and sites related to St. Mary Magdalene, St. Martha, St. Lazarus, St. Maximin, St. Anne, St. Margaret Mary of Alacoque, St. Claude de la Colombiere, St. John Vianney, St. Irenaeus, St. Bernadette, and many others.

SSPX 50th Anniversary Lourdes Celebration Pilgrimage Lourdes and Rome

October 22-November 2, 2020

What better place to go after thanking Our Lady in Lourdes than Rome? After attending the SSPX 50th anniversary celebrations in Lourdes, spend six days in Rome visiting the main shrines of Christianity and giving thanks for being part of the restoration of the Catholic Church. Visit the main basilicas, miraculous images, sites of the first martyrs, the patron saints of the city, and many others. Enjoy free afternoons to explore the sites of your preference.

The Way of St. James Walking Pilgrimage (last 70 miles)

April 20-29, 2021

The year 2021 is a Jubilee Year in Santiago de Compostela in Spain, which means that visiting pilgrims can gain a plenary indulgence! Don't miss this opportunity to walk the Camino de Santiago with fellow traditional Catholics. Walk 70 miles in six days, passing through charming villages that have seen Camino pilgrims since the 10th century. Have your Camino passport stamped along the way, earn your "Compostela" certificate, and gain countless graces. Begin the trip in Sarria, then walk to Portomarín, Palas de Rei, Melide, Arzúa, Pedrouzo, and finish in Santiago de Compostela. Accompanied by Fr. Patrick Summers. Space is limited to 30 pilgrims.

For more information please contact: Regina Pilgrimages
866-369-8149 | 785-437-2883 | info@reginapilgrimages.com
P.O. Box 67, St. Marys, KS 66536 | www.reginapilgrimages.com

Mass Stipends

To request a Mass intention, please note the current requested stipends:

- For one Mass: \$20
- For a novena of Masses (9 consecutive Masses): \$200
- For Gregorian Masses (30 consecutive Masses): \$800

Eucharistic Crusade

Monthly Intentions



August: That our apostate societies may return to Christ the King

O sweet Savior and Redeemer of mankind, Jesus Christ, with the eye of a Father, and with the power of the sovereign King of the Universe, stretch forth Thy hand to bless and regenerate modern society, which is rebelliously turning its back upon Thee, the King of Kings, Lord of Lords. Do Thou, O Lord, save our brethren, reunite the scattered members of modern society gone astray, that we as brethren may together be one with Thee. Amen.

July: For our schools and everyone who works with them

O Glorious Virgin and Martyr, St. Catharine, beg of Jesus, thy Spouse, that He take pity on all those who are taught; that He give them an upright character and docile heart, and the grace to make progress in their studies according to the designs of His sovereign wisdom. O glorious Saint, beg the Father for such an outpouring of grace on the instruction of youth that, after having studied, loved and practiced the divine law, all masters and disciples may together come to the holy Mount, which is Jesus Christ. Amen.

E-mail: eucharistic-crusade@sspx.org

Upcoming Retreats

Men:

Sep 7-12	Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA
Sep 14-19	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ
Oct 19-24	Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA
Nov 9-14	Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA
Nov 16-21	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
Dec 9-12	3-Day Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA
Dec 14-19	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ

Women:

Sep 21-26	Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA
Oct 5-10	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ
Oct 12-17	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
Dec 2-5	3-Day Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA

Mixed:

Oct 21-24	Matrimony	Phoenix, AZ
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Dates subject to change. For more information please contact:
816-733-2500 | www.sspix.org