

Heroes



The Olympics seem to be monopolizing the media lately, and for good reason. They are exciting and fun to watch. I always root for the Americans, but I also like to see some of the other athletes compete. It is also interesting watching some of those ads where they show the athletes in these Olympics when they were young kids, how they worked so hard to get where they are today. What commitment they have to have! Many of them have devoted most of their lives to be the best in their sport.

Sport is used in so many analogies. It is even used to describe how we should live the Christian life. St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable."

As an educator I sometimes worry about the direction society is going and all of the negative examples there are out there for our young people. And, there are a lot of them. But when I think about it, there are a lot of good examples out there as well. Many of them you can find in our Olympians, our own families, and of course those in the Church. We are surrounded by that great cloud of witnesses that we call the saints. And since our school mission is "To grow in spirit, mind, and body as disciples of Christ," I want to share one example that encourages me.

My confirmation name is Peter. I like Peter because he was so rash and so bold and yet, so human. He is the one who cut off the slave's ear with the sword when they tried to take Jesus. He was the one that tried to rebuke Jesus for saying He had to go to Jerusalem and die. He was the one who said that he would never leave Jesus and would lay down his life for Him right before he denied Him three times! He is the one who tried to walk on the water to Jesus and began sinking. There are just so many examples of him messing up that it gives me encouragement to know that you can mess up in this life and still succeed. Peter was a normal human being! I can just picture it at the Transfiguration when Jesus was talking with Moses and Elijah. Peter interrupts them and offers to make them three tents or shrines or something. I can just picture Moses and Elijah rolling their eyes at Jesus as if to say, "Are you sure he's the one you want to lead your Church?" But that is the cool thing about Peter. He didn't quit. Oh yeah, he had his setbacks. And it looked like he was quitting, but he came back. That is why he is my example and my hero. No matter how many times I mess up, I know I can come back and try to do better just like Peter did.

We all need a hero from time to time. Someone we can look up to and emulate. Someone that will encourage us when we are down. Our kids need heroes too. There are lots of choices out there. Some are good and some are not so good. Who is your child's hero?

Yours in Christ,
Jim Makey, Principal