

# LIFE LESSONS FROM FOOTBALL

## Sunday Homily-Resurrection Church- Hancock, July 10-11/2021

I know most of you are football fans and the majority are Packers fans. I think that our Catholic life or parish life is also like a foot ball game. The lessons we could learn from football are priceless. Today, let us reflect on this.

There should a stadium to play the game. Our life, this world or Catholic Church is the stadium. We are playing against Evil spirits. Our captain is Jesus and their captain is Satan. Since he is crooked and deceiver from the beginning, he will do whatever to win the game. The prize is priceless and it is heaven. In the stadium you will find different kinds of peoples. The audience or watchers, the security guards, the managers and the team officials, the players and the referees etc. There will be people living for the game like those who are passionate, there will be people living with the game like those who are arranging or making the game a game and there will be people living by the game like paid staff, the business peoples, or even the popcorn sellers.

Even among the audience or watchers we could see differences. There will be people who actively encourage the players by jumping, singing dancing and howling. When the team score they will become happy and energetic and when the team lose they will become sad, angry and despaired. There are people sitting and watching motionless and there are people critical about everybody and every movement. Some may say if I were in that place I could have played better. There will be some people who came to watch game in order to make others happy, like children, spouse or friends. And there are some people even during this series game thinking about many other things without being affected by any of the factors happens in the game.

Let us come to the playground. There are only two categories of people in the playground: players and the referees. You all know how to play the game and you are playing in this parish to defeat the Satan and his team. Even though you all know the game, only a few could be selected to play in the ground. All others are watchers or audience. The players are the active members, ministers, helpers, volunteers, committees, councils and leaders of this parish. I am, the parish priest is the referee. It is my responsibility to control the game in a proper, organised and legitimate way. Whenever you do some fouls it is my responsibility to blow the whistle. Here are the 15 things a player should know.

- 1. How to compete:** If you do not learn to compete with Satan and evil spirits and improve every day, you'll be the weakest link in the team. That in itself is pressure enough to improve.
- 2. How to be disciplined:** Discipline brings stability and structure. It teaches to be responsible and respectful. If there is no discipline, people would do whatever they wanted and make mistakes without putting the consideration of others first and foremost.

- 3. How to work really hard:** In the parish life, you can earn a name for yourself by outworking your teammates. It is an unfair advantage that is accessible to everyone by changing attitude.
- 4. How to lead:** In reality, our leadership begins and ends with attitude; it's all about your vision, your purpose and your outlook and this leadership is being the servant.
- 5. How to follow:** Before you lead, you have to know how to follow by inspiring and motivating people around us.
- 6. How to be accountable:** Individuals do not win football games. Teams do. To be on a team, you must learn to be accountable to the people around you. We must have a "one fail, all fail" policy in the play. If one person do any fouls, it will affect the whole team.
- 7. How to push others:** we have to mould future generations and people around us to know how to help each other and how to be a follower of Christ.
- 8. The value of practice:** Our game requires practice. Our goal is to defeat Satan and attain heaven and to get there we need every day practices of sacraments, prayer and service.
- 9. How to sacrifice:** You need to work hard and potentially make some drastic sacrifices along the way like time, stability, personal and family life, sleep, health, quiet times, desires, wealth etc...
- 10. How to accomplish something bigger:** In order to accomplish something larger than ourselves, we have to submit to the goals of the team. If every player have a different agenda, we will go all different directions. But when we have one mind-set, we accomplish tremendous feats.
- 11. Never Quit:** Injuries are a part of sports. I could handle adversity one of three ways: I could be bitter, I could quit or I could make the best of my situation. I saw some players quit after injuries, most of whom regretted their decision. I saw others carry a negative attitude wherever they went, like a ball and chain slowing them down. And continue the play realizing that "There's no use in complaining. It won't change my situation. All I can do is strap up and play the next play."
- 12. How to stand for something:** By praying and serving become committed to the team. Take pride in what the decal on our helmet stands for. Care about the people we sweat with and listen to the coaches who lead us. By being in this parish, learn what it means to make an unwavering commitment to something.
- 13. There are no shortcuts:** You may get new parish priests every year with better technique and more effective training. One thing remains: If you don't play, you will not win the games.
- 14. How to finish something you start:** don't be frustrated, distraught or angry when you are benched. Being benched is for the team.
- 15. How to be selfless:** Every player has their own unique talents. Some smart players knows how to play multiple positions. But should not try to play in every positions. Play wherever you are assigned.

So, the concluding question is **What is your role and attitude in this life match against evil spirit?**

Fr. Jubish Joseph