

HOMILY 27TH SUN OT YRC 2019 - CYO

How many of you know who Albert Pujols (Poo holes) is? He is the first baseman for the Los Angeles Angels. He is a world champion, an eight time All Star, and the recipient of three National League Most Valuable Player awards. He is quite an accomplished athlete and has earned a lot of money. He could go out and do anything he wants. Do you know what he has done with his money? He started the Pujols Family Foundation that offers support and care for people with Down syndrome and also helps the poor in the Dominican Republic where he is from. He has done a lot of good with his money. This is what he said when he spoke at Lafayette Senior High School in Missouri: “One way for me to stay satisfied in Jesus is for me to stay humble. Humility is getting on your knees and staying in God’s will – what he wants for me, not what the world wants. It would be easy to go out and do whatever I want, but those things only satisfy the flesh for a moment. Jesus satisfies my soul forever.”

In the Gospel reading Jesus tells a story of a man who is a servant. He spends his day plowing and tending the sheep, and when he is done with that he prepares dinner for his employer and then gets something to eat himself. God created him to be a servant and he gets great satisfaction by being the best servant he can be. He is using his talents and abilities to serve others, and that is where his satisfaction comes from. That is what Albert Pujols has done with his life. God gave him great athletic talent, and he used that great talent to serve others. He has received money and recognition for his talent, but that is not why he is doing what he is doing. That only satisfies him for a moment. He is using his great talent to help the poor in the Dominican Republic and to help people with Down syndrome. He is doing what Jesus wants him to do and that is what gives him great satisfaction.

God has a plan for all of you here today. He wants you to use your gifts and talents to serve other. Most of you here today play CYO sports. You need to figure out what God wants you to do as a team member. Maybe you are a good athlete. If you are a good athlete you will receive individual recognition, but that will just give you satisfaction for a moment. You need to use your talent to serve others. Maybe God wants you to help others that are not as good as you are at sports. Maybe you need to spend more time on the bench and give someone else a chance to play. Maybe you need to pass the ball off to someone else so that they can shine too. Maybe you are not so good at sports, but you are a really good team player. Come to every practice. Encourage your teammates when they need encouragement. Do your best. Maybe you are not good at sports at all, but you can still play and have fun. That is ok too.

During your years in grade school, middle school and high school, you should be trying a lot of things to find out what you like and what you are good at. Do not be afraid to fail. If you find out that you do not like something or are not good at something that is good information. Let that go and move on to something else. When you find what you like and what you are good at, you need to find out how you can use that to serve other people. That is God's plan for you. Whatever it is, be the best that you can be at that will satisfy you forever. God gave Albert Pujols athletic talent so that he could use it to help people with Down syndrome and serve the poor in the Dominican Republic. What is God's plan for you?