

Bo's Blog (March 2010)

The Olympics are over. There were some exciting moments this time, and some sad ones too. There were the courageous athletes who competed while hurt. There were experienced athletes who redeemed expectations from long ago. There were those who didn't meet the expectations of today. And there was the fascinating and baffling sport of curling. The Olympics provided a good sports event to fill the empty space I feel between the end of football at the beginning of February and the first pre baseball games in March (I've never been a fan of basketball or hockey).

March is the real beginning of baseball. Sure, pitchers and catchers get together in mid-February to throw a ball around, but real baseball starts with the pre-season games. I'm surprised at myself each year at how much I look forward to the start of baseball. I guess part of it is what I wrote about last year—that it brings out thoughts of summer, and all the memories and warm feelings that come with it. But I also remember that, about September, I can get pretty bored on baseball. It takes a lot of perseverance for a fan to maintain the same level of interest through to the end, even if your team is doing well. Six months is a long time to watch games, read box scores, keep up on injuries, and monitor slumps, and if you add pre-season and (if you're lucky) post season, that can go to 8 months. It's a long-term commitment.

But then commitments are meant to be long-term, and are not always easy. We make commitments to our friends to do something, and usually that's no big deal because we plan for the time or energy or whatever it takes to fulfill that promise. But sometimes it takes more than we planned for, and we struggle to make good on what we said we would do. Many of us have made vows to each other to remain faithful and committed to each other for the rest of our lives. There are many days when that is an easy promise to keep. But there are also times when it is very difficult, because we all have insecurities and make mistakes and fall short of our own or each other's expectations. And there are times some decide they must let go of that vow in order to survive.

Last month I urged each of us to make a commitment to adding something to our lives that would help us keep God more in the forefront of our lives. Often it's easy to keep up with this kind of commitment when it's new and we seem to feel better because of it. Likewise, it's often easy to set aside

our new habit when we stop feeling the freshness of it, or the benefits of it. It takes perseverance to maintain a

An Irish proverb

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pre-season

been burned out

postterm

that's remain when erance commitment—to a team, to a friend, to a spouse, and to God.

And just as it is in those mundane, or boring, or joyful, or really, really tough times that our connection to each other is

deepened into the fabric of our being, so it is with

relationship with God. Our spiritual life takes root, and

grows, from our daily feeding.

Go Minnesota!

Shalom