



January E-Letter

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www.seattleoyyam.org/

Dear CYO Athletics Community,

The close of the Christmas season comes with the celebration of Epiphany, which means "manifestation". It is particularly significant because not only does the visit of the Magi confirm messianic prophecies from the Old Testament, it also indicates that the gift of the newborn Son, the promise of a new covenant, is extended to all people, not just a chosen few.

Analogously, canon law states that the pastor of a parish has responsibility for all those who reside within his parish boundaries, not just those who are registered parishioners or Catholics. Likewise, the Archbishop has a responsibility to minister to all those who reside within Western Washington.

It is within this context that I would like to share some reflections regarding an issue that is raised from time to time, namely, why we allow non-Catholic schools to participate in CYO Athletics.

Part of what we are called to as disciples is to authentically be who we are. Part of our being "authentic" is to fully represent in all of our actions what it means to be Christian or Catholic. A significant challenge in that is be who we are in a way that extends hospitality and invitation to those around us to join in the celebration of the gift.

Does this present an obstacle at times? Sure. One of the ways we strive to be authentically Catholic in CYO Athletics is in our expectation of pre-game prayer. There is an acknowledgement of God's presence in the gifts he has given each of us, in the experience of competition and in all who are participating that day. How we pray and invite others into that says much about our understanding of the gift we have received. With each party respecting the other, we leave room for the Holy Spirit to work in a way that brings us together instead of driving us apart.

It seems our stewardship of the gift of God's grace should create a sense of community and oneness even if there are differences among us. My experience of my Catholic faith personally as well as how I have seen it lived out in my almost 20 years of professional ministry is that we all have room to grow in our ability to make our faith manifest in our own

lives.

Because of this, it seems that our focus as we celebrate Epiphany should be to reflect upon on how we can continue our own growth in making our faith a light for all to see. The gift we have been given has been given to all. The greatest challenge to us may be in how we share it.

~Tauno Latvala
Director of CYO Athletics

January - Important CYO Athletics Dates

January 8 - HS Basketball Season Begins

January 14 - HS Basketball Rosters Due

January 28 - CYO Athletics Volleyball Team Registration Deadline

January 29-30 - Grade School Basketball Season Ends

January 31 - Grade School Basketball Playoff Brackets Finalized

Send Us Your Photos!

A picture says a thousand words, and CYO Athletics wants to see your stories with any pictures you have of your athletes in action. Your photos might just end up on our website or in future e-letters.

CYO Athletics sees the numbers; that we had 1900 runners this year in our 4 cross country meets, and that we had approximately 4,500 soccer players from 38 different participating parishes and schools, but what we don't see currently are images from the events your families have attended through CYO Athletics. Please e-mail cyo@seattlearch.org any photos you are willing to share with us.

Thank you for your commitment to CYO Athletics. If you have not received past E-Letters, they can be found on our website by clicking here. Please also continue to send us stories at cyo@seattlearch.org, the moments of grace that make our program special, and remind everyone why we do the work we do.

Sincerely,
CYO Athletics
Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Archdiocese of Seattle