

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

GOD FORGETS THE ERRORS...

You might remember the last time that the Mets won the world Series. It was way back in 1986. I guess that's a fairly long time-over thirty years. In that regard, the Yankees have done far better! (I am a Yankee fan!) In the 1986 World Series, the Mets faced off against the Boston Red Sox. If you recall, in game six of that Series, there was an unfortunate error committed by a Boston player by the name of Bill Buckner. Bill Buckner died last month at the age of 69 after battling dementia for some time.

As it turned out, Buckner let a routine ground ball to first base dribble through his legs. This error cost Boston the World Series and allowed the "Amazing Mets" to win their second World Series. Now at the time, the Boston Red Sox had not won a World Series in 68 years, so poor Bill Buckner was almost burned at the stake!

Of course, in 2004 the "curse" ended and Boston has won the World Series several times. But a lot of people never forgot Buckner's mistake which wasn't really fair. In fact, the one reason that Boston was in the Series at all was because he was such a good player. As a first baseman that '86 Season he drove in 102 runs. Overall, he had a .289 batting average and during a twenty-two year career had 1,208 RBI's (runs batted in) which is a pretty good record.

But that one error determined the way people thought about Bill Buckner forever after. In fact, listening to the sports news the day after his death, that was the one thing everybody focused on! How often we do the same thing as well in our dealings with others. We seem to always dwell on the mistakes and failings of our neighbor instead of considering the bigger picture. That's not really God's way at all.

There's an expression that you might have heard, "To err is human to forgive is divine." How true! There are times in our lives when all of us "drop the ball" and make mistakes. We are still in the month of June which is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In the litany of the Sacred Heart, there is an invocation that it would be well for us all to reflect upon: "Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love, have mercy upon us." Yes, the heart of Jesus is very kind and good.

In our own lives we must try to imitate in some way the charity and goodness of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. First of all, in our thoughts. Do we try to see the good rather than the evil in those around us? We should try to fix our thoughts on the positive points of people rather than the negative.

Secondly, we should be more charitable in our words. Do we speak well of others especially behind their backs? Or perhaps do we constantly belittle others and disparage them? Something to think about!

Finally, in our actions we should imitate the love of Christ. The golden rule is "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Let's never intentionally hurt or injure somebody. We would not want to be treated that way ourselves! We should be grateful that the heart of Jesus is so compassionate. He forgets our sins and failings as long as we are repentant.

In the bigger game that is known as life, the devil really wants us to strike out. He throws a lot of curve balls of temptation towards us. Sometimes we make errors. But to quote Yogi Berra, "It ain't over till it's over!" We make mistakes but it's how we finish up that really counts. With the heart of Jesus as our sure refuge, we will all have made it to "home" our heavenly home that is!

*Sincerely in Christ,
Father Jerome*