

PASTOR'S COLUMN—FEBRUARY 24, 2014

Dear Parishioners:

So the Olympics have been “percolating” for several days, “brewing” bronze, silver and gold medals for the athletes. The amount of dedication required to be an Olympic champion is amazing. Fractions of seconds are at stake based on years of training. Such intense competition; why do people do it? For love of the sport? To test their abilities and their limits?

Now why do people follow Christ Jesus? I don't see any medals at stake. In fact the only indication of victory is a wooden cross and empty tomb.

Competition for Christ consists of faithfulness in loving God and neighbor without expecting “pay-back” from God or neighbor. The only “glory” is to give God all the glory out of gratitude that God loves us first in Christ.

The Olympics are a special way to accentuate and celebrate God-given abilities to athletes. The potential for the medal winners to become famous is there but fame comes and goes. As disciples of Jesus we “compete” for an imperishable “prize” based on the infamy of the way of the cross. The dedication required to be a faithful follower of Christ is eternally more significant than short-lived Olympic competition.

Loving you in Christ,

Fr. Terry