



Love Calls us to Service



Mother Teresa said, “Love is not patronizing, and charity isn’t about pity, it is about love. Charity and love are the same – with charity you give love, so don’t just give money but reach out your hand instead.”

The word ‘love’ is widely used in our culture today. We can ‘love’ a gift. We can ‘love’ an experience. And, of course, we can ‘love’ romantically. However, society has transformed ‘love’ into a feeling, and altered its true meaning.

What is love? Love is not an emotion; rather, it is a conscious choice to “will the good of another”. Love is a disposition to do good for another person, expecting nothing in return. In its ideal form, love is willing self-sacrifice, a complete gift of self for another person. It is easy to love the lovable. But loving someone doesn’t always involve liking them. We are called to love those who may be our enemies or who may be difficult to love.

How do we love? English writer, John Bunyan, once said, “You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.” This week during the month of “thanks”, we invite Play Like a Champion student-athletes to reflect on love and charity and how we are each called to service. Discuss:

- Does our team truly care for and love each other?
- How do we show this love? And how should we show this love?
- How can we share love as charity beyond our team?
- Why is this important?

Watch the video of Student-Athletes Maggie McDonough and Danny Sheehan as they discuss the importance of love on a team and spreading this love as charity beyond the team to make the world a better place.

Sports can teach us to overcome individualism and selfishness, which often characterize human relations, in order to make room for the logic of brotherhood/sisterhood and love, these things can lead to promoting the common good on every level. Athletics can encourage individuals to give of themselves, expecting nothing in return. Create a loving team culture by encouraging self-sacrifice for the team and service to your community.

CHAMPS Group: "Character, Honor and Morality in Play by Student-Athletes"

Play Like a Champion offers our partners the opportunity to form a "CHAMPS" group.

Purpose: CHAMPS is an organization for student-athletes who seek to be leaders in their school community. This is more than a club; it aims to form student athletes into moral leaders of faith who are committed to excellence in athletics and service to one



another.

Mission Statement: Through service, and fellowship, *CHAMPS* members build upon the common experience of athletics to develop their character in the pursuit of personal excellence. Ultimately, *CHAMPS* athletes are a community of faith that support one another and work to build the Kingdom of God in their school community.

For more information on starting CHAMPS in your school community, contact our office at information@playlikeachampion.org.

*Photo is CHAMPS group at Bishop O'Connell in Arlington VA

Student-Athlete Leadership Webinar Wednesday, December 12, 2015 Noon EST



Partners: Join us for this webinar to discuss opportunities to engage your student-athletes in leadership, service and faith formation. Several Play Like a Champion high school partners will share what they are doing to develop their young people to be positive leaders on their team, in the school community and in the broader community. **REGISTER NOW!**

*Photo is S.A.L.T. (Student Athlete Leadership Team) Don Bosco Prep in New Jersey

An Athlete's Prayer

Father, creator of all, you are the center of all life. Everything in this world points to you and leads us to you. Today we ask you for the grace to keep you at the center of our lives and the center of our sport team so that we can use you as the reference point of all our thoughts, words, and actions. Help us to get our individual selves out of the center of attention, and put you there. In serving you as individuals, we hope to give our best selves to all whom we encounter this day. In serving you as a team, we seek to give glory to your name through our play and our teamwork. Amen.



*Pictured is Cristo Rey Atlanta Boy's Varsity Basketball Team

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