

Letter to parents about CYO.

For years, our children have enjoyed the opportunity to engage in sporting activities such as Cross Country, Basketball, Volleyball and Track & Field. At a minimal cost, all children, no matter the skill or ability, were given the chance to engage in friendly competition. Unlike school sports, no one was ever cut. Winning was never the goal, but participation, skill development and team work were the motives. Now we have reached a critical time at which all this may come to an end. We have been without an Athletic Director since the end of December. Many of the coordinators, after years of service, are foreseeing the end of their tenures. Of course, all this is to be expected. As children grow, their parents often accompany them through their endeavors. And now, the parents who have served as AD and coordinators have children who have moved on to high school or are getting close to it.

To be sure, none of us want to see the program end. The former AD and the team coordinators have worked hard to maintain these programs and would love to hand them off to others in a well ordered fashion. But we need others to step forward soon to prepare for next year.

The **Athletic Director** will be responsible for overseeing all CYO programs. This person will recruit coordinators for the individual sports and assist them in fulfilling their roles. He or she will be sure that all diocesan requirements are met and all forms are completed in a timely manner. He or she will be the main contact with the parish office to coordinate communications with parents and advertise registrations.

Coordinators for the sports. These persons are responsible for all that happens under the individual sports program. They interview potential coaches and coordinate with the AD and parish staff for availability of the gym. They also work with the AD and other coordinators to organize banquets at the end of the season. With the assistance of the AD, they distribute to the coaches the sporting equipment and uniforms and see that all is collected at the end of the season.

Coaches. We are fortunate to have many college students willing to coach, but their academic seasons do not always correspond to our sporting seasons, especially for basketball. They are also college students who do not always have the skills of working with children which are best taught by being a parent. We can always use more parents willing to coach. Even if they do not know much about the sport, the coordinators and other coaches are willing to help teach.

Please consider giving some time for a few years so that these programs may continue and that our children may enjoy all that the CYO program has to offer.

If you are interested in any of these positions, contact Denise Foos at 419-352-4195 or businessmgr@stalbg.org

Thanks,

Fr. Tom