

“Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice” Philippians 4:9.



## Game Day

**Read:** John 20:19-31

Everyone loves sports. There is something about them that just gets people excited. We are all rooting for the same team. Sharing the triumphs, failures, rituals and knowledge of the game together. In a lot of ways, sports mirror our faith. Our spiritual journey consists of gathering together, sharing life, acting out rituals, etc. In a sense, we are part of God's team (the Church). But simply signing up doesn't make you an active participant. I can claim to be Rider fan, but if I never watch them play, learn about football, or share my experience with others, then I am not much of an active fan.

Acts informs us that active members of a Church community devote themselves “to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer” (2:42). These are the four pillars of Catholic religious practice.

1. Apostles' Teachings: this is the Creed, what we believe as handed on from tradition and the teaching authority of the Church. This gives us knowledge about our faith (the game).
2. Fellowship: gathering weekly as a community to share, support and encourage one another in faith (game day).
3. Breaking of Bread: this is regular participation in the sacraments, especially Sunday Eucharist (game sustenance).
4. Prayer: this is both public prayer (liturgy/mass) and private prayer (game day rituals and practice or sports updates).

If we want to be an active member of God's team, then we must keep these four key principles at the forefront of our lives. We must know our faith, share it with others, participate in the sacraments and consistently pray both privately and publically. Otherwise, we are just on the sidelines and not really actively participating in the game.