

Homeruns for God  
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Emeritus

Ephesians 2:10: For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

I retired from full time parish ministry last November. People ask, "How are you keeping busy?" I tell them about Babe Ruth.

Babe Ruth was a famous home run hitter back in the 1930's. People asked him, "How do you feel about hitting all those home runs?"

He would say something like this: "I'm glad I hit all those home runs, but you have to be careful about that kind of thing. You can't rely on yesterday's home runs. You have to hit today's home runs today."

That's good advice. So I wake up each morning and pray, "Lord, what home runs do You want me to hit today? What home run can I hit for You, and for other people, and for my family, and for myself?"

And I know I'm asking to hit four consecutive home runs in a single game (day). That has happened only seven times since 1894 in major league baseball. But when you walk with God, it happens every day. Everyday God shows me at least four opportunities to love and serve, such as make that thank you call, spend another hour cleaning the basement, take my son to karate, and write this devotion.

Not only that, but God does something even more amazing. Sometimes I try to serve and strike out. My efforts seem useless — like "filthy rags" as Isaiah said (Isaiah 64:6). That is when God says, "Whatever you do for Me is a precious treasure in My eyes. Even if you just give someone a cup of water in My name — that is a home run to Me" (see Mark 9:41 and Matthew 25:40).

God washes all our sins away through the precious blood of Jesus. Then He invites us to walk with Him. He says, "Today I have a new set of good works already prepared for you to do. Today I have many home runs prepared for you to hit."

God offers us many ways to love and serve Him every day. All we have to do is swing the bat when the opportunity comes. God will bless the results.