

PRAYERS BEFORE A MATCH

PRAYER FOR ATHLETES

Gracious God,
we give thanks for the gift of our bodies,
for the ability to run, walk, jump,
swim, catch and throw.

We pray for patience and discipline,
that we may learn the joy of mastering new skills:
achieving success, and cheerfully bearing failure
in the company of others.

We pray that our relationships be enriched
through the friendships we form.
May we learn to include others across borders
of language, colour, gender and religion.

We pray that we care for others.
May we especially look out for those
who are differently abled,
and those often left on the boundaries.

Through our vigilance
may we always play fair,
and ensure that no one is abused or exploited.

We ask this through Jesus your Son. Amen.

From the Australian Catholic Bishops Social Justice Statement 2014-15.

PRAYER TO BLESSED PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

Mountain-climber and skier,
horseback rider and swimmer,
cyclist and hiker -
you loved the challenge of sports,
Blessed Pier Giorgio!

Teach me to put all my athletic skill
into proper perspective:
to take time "to contemplate
the greatness of the Creator
in the pure air" as I play,
always remembering that athletes
"have the duty of putting our health
at the service of those who do not have it,
for to act otherwise would be to betray
that gift of God".
Amen.

From "A Book of Prayers in honor of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati" by Fr Timothy E Deeter. Used with permission.

"During the game, when you are out on the pitch, you display beauty, generosity and camaraderie. If a match lacks these qualities it loses force, even if the team wins."

POPE FRANCIS, ADDRESS TO DELEGATIONS OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAMS OF ARGENTINA AND ITALY, 13 AUGUST 2013