

## Lasorda's Baseball Wit

The baseball season has wound down, the postseason gets under way tomorrow (Tuesday, Oct. 2), and the 2018 World Series will begin on Oct. 23. It's celebration time for baseball fans everywhere.

One of the most colorful characters in all of baseball is Tommy Lasorda, a former Major League Baseball pitcher who is best known for his two decades as manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers. This year, he marked his 69<sup>th</sup> season in one capacity or another with the Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers organization – the longest tenure anyone has had with the team, edging Dodger broadcaster Vin Scully (now retired) by three seasons.



Lasorda was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame as a manager in 1997. If there was a spot in that hall for wit and wisdom, he could land there, too. Here are some samples of his quotes:

- *My theory of hitting was just to watch the ball as it came in and hit it.*
- *The only way I'd worry about the weather is if it snows on our side of the field and not theirs.*
- *When we win, I'm so happy I eat a lot. When we lose, I'm so depressed I eat a lot. When we're rained out, I'm so disappointed I eat a lot.*
- *All last year we tried to teach him, Fernando Valenzuela, English, and the only word he learned was "million."*
- *My wife tells me, "I think you love baseball more than me." I say, "Well, I guess that's true, but hey, I love you more than football and hockey."*
- *I walk into the clubhouse and it's like walking into the Mayo Clinic. We have four doctors, three therapists and five trainers. Back when I broke in, we had one trainer who carried a bottle of rubbing alcohol, and by the seventh inning, he had drunk it all.*
- *Baseball is like driving; it's the one who gets home safely that counts.*
- *Many people have asked me why I came to Plymouth.*
- *No matter how good you are, you're going to lose one-third of your games. No matter how bad you are, you are going to win one-third of your games. It's the other third that makes the difference.*

Once asked about his future plans, the perennial Los Angeles Dodger said he intends to work for the Dodgers even after he's dead.

(more)

“I told my wife to make sure the Dodgers’ schedule is posted on my gravestone so that maybe someone comes by, sees it and decides to go see a game.”

You may think the kidder in Dodger blue is joking, but his thought does have merit.

We each have the capacity to leave a legacy that will continue to work for Christ even after we’re gone – and that is the love, the grace and the mercy of our Savior planted in human hearts.

*One generation shall commend Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts (Psalm 145:4 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter