

## *Running the Race*

Although cases of cheating pop up regularly in the Boston Marathon, one of the most famous episodes occurred on this day in 1980. Rosie Ruiz, 23, was the first woman to cross the finish line, clocking the third-fastest time ever recorded for a female. As she stepped up to the winner's podium, looking relaxed and sweat-free, race officials began to question her.

Neither the monitors at the various checkpoints nor any of the other runners remembered seeing her during the race. She didn't show up in any of the many photographs taken. A few observers in the crowd eventually revealed that they had seen her join the race in its final half mile. Officials also found evidence that when Ruiz qualified for the Boston race by participating in the New York Marathon, she achieved her time by riding the subway.

The Bible often compares the Christian life to a race. God is the race official, and He allows no cheating. We start at the beginning as new believers and persevere to the end, until we become like Christ. The course is sometimes difficult, with obstacles and twists and turns, but there is no short-cut in the process of spiritual growth.

In life and in the careers in long-term care we have chosen, we all have our own race to run – not someone else's. It may include trials, victories and disappointments, and we may not like how our course is laid out, but it's ours to run.

--Beecher Hunter