

Yogi's Quip at the Plate

The great baseball catcher Yogi Berra played almost his entire 19-year baseball career with the New York Yankees. He has – during his playing days and since – become renowned for clever quips.

He was once involved in a ball game in which the score was tied, with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning.

The batter from the opposing team stepped up to the batting box and made the sign of the cross on home plate with his bat. Berra, also a Catholic, wiped off the plate with his glove and said to the batter, “Why don't we let God just watch this game?”

That is pretty good theology when applied to the outcome of a baseball game. It's terrible, however, when applied to the way we conduct our lives and carry out the work of God. Prayer is always getting nudged aside, neglected or perfunctorily performed. Many of us feel we just have too much to do to have time to pray.



Just consider this: We are in the people business as we pursue the mission of Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home. And prayer is an exquisitely beautiful gift to offer someone we love – or to people we may not even know. The gift of prayer is more valuable than money, sweeter than a special dessert, and more lasting than a diamond.

This gift can be given immediately. The poor person can offer the gift of prayer as well as the individual who has many worldly goods. Love for others and faith in God are the only things needed for the gift of prayer.

In the Bible, for example, the apostle Paul never traveled to Colossae, but when he heard about the Colossians' faith in Jesus and love for others, he responded with the gift of prayer. He asked the Lord to fill these believers with the understanding of what God wanted them to be and do, so they might fully reflect the grace and mercy of the Lord in every circumstance.

What a special gift to present to fellow associates, and to those we serve – our residents and their families! Every day holds some opportunities to offer a prayer for others. Among other requests, ask God to fill them with spiritual insight so they may live pleasing to Him.

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that you might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (Colossians 1:9).

– Beecher Hunter