

AUGUST 21, 2016



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ISAIAH 66:18 – 21

PSALM 117:1, 2

HEBREWS 12:5 – 7, 11 – 13

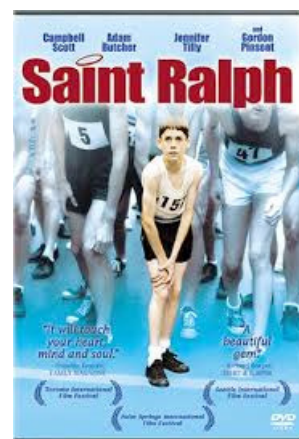
LUKE 13:22 – 30

REFLECTION

The word discipline isn't an easy word to hear. Discipline has two meanings. Firstly, it means you are in trouble for something. Secondly, it means perseverance is needed in order to focus your time on something to develop your skills. St. Paul talks today about discipline and offers both models in a positive way.

As I reflected about today's readings, I thought about the bombing at the 2013 Boston Marathon. Many were harmed while competing at an event that took a ton of discipline and dedication. Yet even at this awful event, this same discipline gave the athletes the ability to survive, to fight, to support each other, and to heal. If you were a runner in their shoes, would you have the strength to survive? Check out the link in the media section. It is a scene from a movie about a young boy learning to run and seeking a miracle. The story is powerful and shows the connection between discipline in working on our skills and working on our lives of faith.

Without discipline, anything can happen. The hard part to accept? Discipline is not fun, can cause pain, and it is certainly unwanted. It takes many experiences in life to know that everything we experience helps us succeed or survive. This is the "peaceful fruit of righteousness" (Hebrews 12:11).



SAINT RALPH (2004)

Movie Clip

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JkaqmqlbM1g>

ACTION

Consider an area of life in which you are proud of what you can accomplish and the work you put into it. Now, take that discipline and energy and turn it toward disciplining yourself into a prayer routine, however it needs to look for you.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- Whom do you allow to discipline you and why do you trust them to do what is best for you?
- What goodness do you see in their role to help you become a better person?
- How can you see discipline as helping you become a better disciple of Jesus?