

Christ the King November 22, 2009

This athlete was known as the flying Scotsman. And he was the projected winner of the men's 100 meters race at the 1924 Summer Olympics. But when Eric Liddell discovered that the trial runs were scheduled for a Sunday morning, he bowed out of the race. Even the Prince of Wales could not persuade him to honor his country by running on the Sabbath. " God my King is greater than the kings of England, Wales, and Scotland. To honor God is more important than to honor the king of England." And so we have the story line of the movie, "Chariots of Fire".

You and I are here because we want to give honor and glory to God in the holy Eucharist, the Supreme Act of Worship. We recognize the truth of his word and we recognize him in the breaking of the bread, and in each one of us. Earthly leaders rule sometimes by power and force but our King rules by love. There is no greater love than this than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. When Eric ran in his second best event he ran with a paper crumpled in his hand. It read: " those who honor me, I will honor (ISm2:30). We are called to run the race as St. Paul says, we are called to testify to the truth, we are called to stand for what is right, good and holy and the dignity of every human being as a child of God. Eventually Eric Liddell served as a missionary in China. We are called to evangelize others every time we decide to honor God above every one and everything, when He is number one in our lives.

By Jesus' life of self-giving and his death of self-sacrifice, Jesus has anointed us priests, prophets and kings-true sons and daughters of the Most High God and Father. We show this to the world, when we like Jesus, lift up the poor, welcome the sinner, forgive the an enemy, confront evil, comfort the sick, guide others to the truth of our faith, respect everyone at every stage of life, and praise God with all that we are and all that we have.

Eric Liddell speaks the most memorable line in the movie, when he tells his sister: "When I run, I feel God's pleasure". We feel God's pleasure when we run the race and fulfill the purpose for which we were created and that is to come to know

love and serve God in this life and to be happy with Him in the next. We do not run the race of life to win a good medal but the crown of eternal life. As another church year comes to the finish line, let us rededicate ourselves to our King Jesus and make him the King of our hearts and our lives. As we approach Him in Holy Communion, today, let us acclaim: My Lord and my God!