

PLAYING THE WORLD CUP IN THE FOOT-BALL TEAM OF JESUS

If we compare Our Christian Life to a Foot-ball Match

1. What is the ground on which to play?
2. Who is the Captain of the team
3. Who are his players? How and why did the Captain choose them?
4. What does the Captain expect from his team members?
5. What would be the opposing team?
6. Who does the positioning of the players within the team?
7. What position will the Captain assign to each member of his team?
8. What does the positioning of the team members signify in real life?
9. What name would you give - in real life - to those different positions within Jesus' team Mention some of them?

, PLAYING FOOT-BALL FOR CHRIST.

<u>Requirements.</u>	<u>Requirements</u>
1. A big Playground.	1. The entire world.
2. A Captain.	2. Christ Our Lord.
3. Players. A team.	3. All those called by Christ form the team of Christ. We call the team of Christ "The Church" and the team mates "Christians"
4. An opposing Team.	4. A Sinful world The evil-one. Hatred - Exploitation, -Injustice, Enemies from God.
5. A Will to strive to win the Trophy.	5. .A Desire to win every human person, nay, the entire world for Christ. To make our world the Kingdom of Christ. A Kingdom of peace, justice and love..
<u>Conditions:</u>	<u>Conditions:</u>
1. Being invited or called by the Captain.	1. Called by Christ to join his team, at <u>Baptism.</u>
2. Accepting the invitation or call to play in his team.	2. Consciously accepting the Call of Christ, especially at <u>Confirmation.</u> We name this call to join Christ's

	Team – “His Church”, as a <u>General Christian Vocation.</u>
3. Willingness to play under the leadership of the Captain.	3. Willingness to follow Jesus and be his disciple for the rest of one’s life.
4. Dedication and unselfish service of the team..	4. Absolute dedication to Christ as team members for the good of all men & women under His Leadership.
5. Obedience to the Captain as regards in what place and in what way to play for the victory of the team.	5. Unconditional and unswerving obedience to Christ as what to play and where to play for the victory of His team. We name those <u>special positions</u> to play within his team <u>Particular Vocations</u>

6. The different places we should take in the game f.i, forward, middle line, defense or goal post, is up to the captain to decide and for us to obey.	6. The particulars ways of life <u>Particular Vocation.</u> -Christ our Leader may ask us to take in life to serve Him are named <u>States of life,</u> <i>namely: Priesthood, Religious life, Marriage and Consecrate Lay life,</i> and the different professions, careers, and jobs that we may take in life to serve Christ we name <u>Ministries.</u>
<u>Remarks;</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1. The invitation to join the team can accepted or rejected. We are left free to say yes or says no to the call.	1. The invitation of Christ to join his team leaves us free to say yes or no to Him. God respects our freedom. It is an invitation. God does not bring force on us.
	The call to follow Christ that was given to us at Baptism when we were children, has to be ratified and accepted in a conscious & free manner later on, when we reach maturity. The proper time for it is at <u>Confirmation.</u>
2. Once we have accepted the invitation to join a team, we have to be consequent and so we ought responsibly to stick	2. Once – at Baptism and at Confirmation - we have said yes to Jesus’ call to serve Him in his team we are not any longer free to back out of it. We have to be

to our decision. imp	committed Christians till death. 3. Once I have become a disciple of Christ, a member of his team, I should live only for the prosperity and success of His team, (The Church, the Kingdom of God), not after my personal profits or selfish purposes.
4. I should always play as a team member in the place and in the capacity where I can best serve the team according to my abilities and obeying the instructions of the captain.	4. If I want to serve Jesus best, I'll have to find out how should I live and work to be of maximum service to Jesus and his team. I should discern my particular vocation. ➤ Does Jesus want me to be a Priest or a Religious or a Married Person or a Consecrated Lay Apostle? ➤ What job or career or profession should I take to be of the greatest possible assistance to Jesus to win the world for His Father?
5. All the players whatever their designation within the team may be, have the obligation to play with the equal dedication, zest and enthusiasm. No idle, or lazy players should be allowed in the team.	5. Every Christian, be a Priest, a Brother or a Sister, or a Married Person has to play for Christ in his/her state of life, work and profession to the best of his/her abilities No idle and lazy Christians wanted.
	6. Christian life is service to God and neighbor from start to finish.
	7. Honest and sincere Christians should discover their position or particular vocation within the Church by means of prayer and generosity.

REFLECTIONS**SOME PRAYERFUL****OF A FOOT -BALL FAN**

After the match was over, and the crowds left the stadium, “Lord, it occurred to me that our life in this world is like a foot-ball game. Everyone in the world has his position in your team, and you, Lord, like a good trainer have put him there. You need me.

Others need me. We need you. We need others. In the game, we all depend on one another

Lord, it doesn't matter in what position I' am playing in your team, whether it's in the attack, or defense or in the goal. What really matters is that I take the position you have chosen for me in life – - ***whether to be a priest, a brother or a sister, or a simple lay person*** - and that I play it to the best of my abilities,

Lord, when you look at the field of my life, am I really playing my part? Am I keeping to my position? Or I am standing on the touchline, with my hands in my pockets, criticizing the way the others are playing? `

Do I persevere to the very end of the match, even if I am fouled,? Or do I allow myself to be intimidated by the criticism of the rest of the team, or by the spectators?

I must admit, Lord that I have often wished to be placed somewhere else, that where you have placed me. Make me realize that what really matters is that I wholeheartedly, play the role allotted to me in the game of life, until you blow the final whistle

And so. Lord, tomorrow, when you will blow the whistle for the start of the game, show me in what position you want me to play and give me the courage and enthusiasm to play it well till the bitter end!