

Call to action for the American Bishops and the American Catholic Church as a result of the March 7, 2019 Symposium on Sports, Education & Pastoral Care held at the University of Notre Dame. This Symposium responded to the Vatican's Dicastery for Laity, Family & Life release of *Giving the Best of Yourself: a Document on the Christian Perspective on Sport and the Human Person*

In recognition of the importance of play in children's lives today and of the needs of the least advantaged, we call upon our bishops to support the efforts of Catholic service-oriented youth sports organizations by taking the following steps.

1. Communicate the vision of youth sports put forth in "***Giving the Best of Yourself: a Document on the Christian Perspective on Sport and the Human Person***" within your dioceses and on the USCCB website.
2. Establish an "Apostolate for Sports" in the American Church with a focus on youth.
3. Create an Office for Youth Sports Ministry within the USCCB. Integrate the mission of this office with concrete efforts to confront the structural racism and the growing "opportunity gap" in our country.
4. Support mandatory coach and parent education for all involved in youth sports programs.
5. Provide adequate administrative and financial support for the sport programs in your dioceses.
6. Create a day to formally bless the ministry of sport in each diocese bringing all entities together: coaches, parents and athletes.
7. Host a symposium involving youth sports and faith leaders in your own diocese to develop concrete strategies for meeting the needs of the children in your communities. Resources from the March 7 Symposium can be shared to support these local events.
8. Put a priority on meeting the needs of the marginalized children within your diocese. Act collaboratively with those who are already involved.

For more information visit the Play Like a Champion Today website at www.playlikeachampion.org

You can view the full "Pastoral Action Plan" from the Symposium at www.playlikeachampion.org/pastoral-action-plan as well see ways that the Sport Ministry Community is living the Christian vision of sport in their local communities. Join the team!

