



July 14, 2025

The Baseball Prayer

With the Tigers in command of the American League, perhaps it's time for the Baseball Prayer, first given at St. Andrews on June 25th, 2000, when Moby Benedict was giving the Children's Sermon. I don't know how many of you remember Moby. He and his wife, Pat, were very active members of St. Andrews and Moby was famous for his life of baseball, playing for the Tigers and then becoming coach of the varsity team at the University of Michigan. His talk to the children was about the constant silent communication between members of a baseball team and their coach during a game, known as "signals." He likened it to prayer, silent communication between us and God during our game of life. It's the way we express our faith in God, asking for help and guidance, expressing our concerns and hopes. My son, Ned, Jr., was preaching that day and he gave the Baseball Prayer after the children's sermon.

My granddaughter was 11 years old at the time and a great baseball fan. Her other grandfather, the Rev. Ed Couch, had written the prayer. Sixteen years later, she asked that the prayer be given at her wedding. Though not your normal wedding prayer, it is a very good prayer for any occasion and often gets an applause when given at a public event or Rotary meeting. Here is the Baseball Prayer:

Almighty God, you who are called the "Mighty Umpire" in this game of life, we are not sure what uniforms we should wear. While we may be Angels in spirit, in reality we are Giants in pride, Dodgers of responsibility and Tigers in ambition. Often, we are Cubs, who would rather play than take our responsibilities seriously.

When it comes to faith, we find ourselves in the minor

leagues. When it comes to good works, we are not even sure of the ground rules.

Therefore, we are thankful for your mercy when we find ourselves in foul territory; for your forgiveness when we commit one error after another; and for your uplifting spirit when we find ourselves in a slump.

Dear God, may our game plan be your will, and our response a sellout crowd with standing room only. And when our number is retired here on Earth, may we rejoice to hear your call-out: "SAFE," at home. Amen.

~Written by Ned Edwards

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