POPE FRANCIS ON SPORTS

“We know how the generations look at sportsmen and are inspired by them! The participation of all athletes of every age and level is, therefore necessary, because those who are part of the sports world exemplify virtues such as generosity, humility, sacrifice, constancy and cheerfulness. Likewise, they should make their contribution to the group spirit, to respect, healthy competition, and solidarity with others.”
– Pope Francis “Giving the Best of Yourself” 2018

Finally, I would like to emphasize the role of sports as a means for the mission and sanctification. The Church is called to be a sign of Jesus Christ in the world, also through sports practiced in oratories, parishes, schools and associations. Every occasion is good for announcing Christ’s message.
– Pope Francis “Giving the Best of Yourself” 2018

"Challenge yourself in the game of life like you are in the game of sports. Challenge yourself in the quest for good, in both Church and society, without fear, with courage and enthusiasm. Get involved with others and with God; don't settle for a mediocre 'tie'; give it your best, spend your life on what really matters and lasts forever."
– Pope Francis "Giving the Best of Yourself" 2018

“Sports can open the way to Christ in those places or environments where, for different reasons, it is not possible to announce Him directly, and people, with their witness of joy, participating a sport as a community, can be messengers of the Good News.”
– Pope Francis "Giving the Best of Yourself" 2018

“Sport is a very rich source of values and virtues that help us to become better people. Like the athlete during training, practicing sport helps us to give our best, to discover our limits without fear, and to struggle daily to improve. In this way, "to the extent that each Christian grows in holiness, he or she will bear greater fruit for our world." For the Christian athlete, holiness will, therefore, consist in living sports as a means of encounter, personality formation, witnessing and proclaiming the joy of being Christian with the people around oneself."
– Pope Francis "Giving the Best of Yourself" 2018

"Sport is a human activity of great value, able to enrich people’s lives. As far as the Catholic Church is concerned she is working in the world of sport to bring the joy of the Gospel, the inclusive and unconditional love of God for all human beings."
– Pope Francis "Sport at the Service of Humanity," 2016

“To belong to a sports team means to reject all forms of selfishness and isolation--it is an opportunity to meet and be with others, to help each other, to compete in mutual esteem and grow in brotherhood.”
– Pope Francis to young people, Italian Sports Center Event, 2014