

Fr. Ryan Homily 7/26/20

Read: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 (109A); Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52

So, you may be aware that major league baseball started up again this week, earlier this week, and I was happy to see that and it's going to be an abbreviated, shorter schedule of course but it's something. And so, the Brewers went out last night and promptly lost their first game to the Cubs, but they're doing much better today. I don't know if there are any Cubs fans here today but rubber mask tomorrow, I'm looking forward to it, at least an abbreviated season. But even though the bleachers are empty and there using this piped in crowd noise, maybe all the players aren't choosing to play this year, I just think it's great to have some sports back. I was talking with Deacon earlier that I was listening on the radio in my car going through the stations and the sports station was talking about whether or not it was a good idea for this one guy to take his girlfriend out fishing on their first date. And they talked about it for an hour, they don't have anything else to talk about. So, it's good for some sports to be back and I can listen to Bob Uecker call games again on the radio which is amazing he's still at it. I remember listening to him was I was just a kid falling asleep in my bed. But, you know, with baseball starting up and with these readings today I'm reminded of a story that's actually a few years old now. It's pretty common that at the end of the national or the world news programs in the evening they usually have a feel-good story. You know, news can sometimes be depressing so they want to end on a good note. Well, ABC World News would end their Friday broadcast with this segment called 'Our Person of the Week' and it's an opportunity for them to highlight someone who perhaps has done a good deed or is accomplished in some way. So, they do this profile and it's a way just to end on a positive note for the week. A few years back, they featured this little boy, a 12-year-old whose name was Ian McMillan. And this little boy, he's 12 years old, he went to an Arizona's Diamondbacks baseball game and it was the fourth inning and one of the baseball players out on the field he tosses this baseball up into the stands where there was a group of boy and girls, I don't think they were friends but they were huddled together, leaning over the railing trying to get this baseball. Well, this little boy Ian he catches it and he has this great treasure and he's holding it up for everyone to see and the people in the stands are cheering him. Well, there's this other little boy who didn't get the ball and he is just devastated. He's so devastated he just goes and

sits down next to his mom and is just destroyed that he didn't get this baseball. So, Ian, the little boy who got it, is just running around, everyone's cheering, he's holding up his prize, and he happens to glance back and he sees this other little boy who's just miserable. And with no prompting whatsoever, this little boy goes over to this other little boy and hands the baseball over to this other child. And the television camera, of course, is watching all of this happen right, they see the player toss the ball up into the stands, the commentators are noting how the kids are straining trying to get the ball and they keep the camera on Ian and they watch all of this happen. And they are so taken by this act of selflessness that they brought this little boy Ian back into the locker room after the game was done. They gave him a bat that was signed by all the players and he got box seats for the rest of the season; so, he wins in the end. So, here's this kid, he has his treasure, he's willing to give it up, and he gets something beyond his wildest imagination and that's what today is all about. God says to Solomon in the old testament ask for anything you want. Ask for anything you want and I will give it to you. Now, he could ask for riches or power, he could ask for palaces, for a long life, he could ask for vengeance on his enemies; instead Solomon says give to me an understanding heart. Give to me an understanding heart so that I might teach people what is right and what is wrong. And God is so delighted, He's so taken by Solomon's request that his name has lived on in immortality, thousands and thousands of years after this man is gone we still talk about the wisdom of Solomon because he asked for an understanding heart. See, that's the net into the sea, the pearl of great price, the treasure in the field. We spend our whole lives searching for money, or success, or security, for accolades, for comfort but if we would be willing to seek patience and holiness and perseverance, fidelity, courage and understanding hearts then God will look at you as He looked on Solomon. See, most people who don't seek those greater things who seek instead what's worldly, I think they do so because they're afraid. They're afraid of the cost of seeking those Godly things instead of the worldly. But see, we have to surrender our lives, surrender seeking those smaller things and seek first the Kingdom of God. We have to do that for the promise to kick in. We have to do that for the blessing to be given. Remembering as we do surrender those lower things, Paul's words today, that all things are gonna work for good for those who love God first, who seek His kingdom. Mind you, Paul doesn't say that bad things will stop happening if you seek God first but that all things whether good or bad will work

for good for those who love God. So, what is it that you want most right now, if you're honest? If you could have anything? Win the lottery, the return of your health or youth, success for your children, what is it? And now see if you can't reach a little bit higher. And in reaching a little bit higher, God will take you higher still.

Amen