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Inspiring blog about a race honoring running priest

posted at 9/22/2009 5:13 PM CDT

Saw this on the newsroom blog of The Catholic Review in Baltimore...

Running the Good Race
George P. Matysek Jr.

I was only a few seconds into a mile-long run through an Emmitsburg corn field on Saturday morning when I literally whispered, "This is awesome!"

That's not the kind of language that normally passes my lips, but I was genuinely taken by the beauty of the neat rows of nearly spent stalks, a gorgeous sun overhead and a cool breeze that rustled the green and brown leaves.

What made the day even more beautiful was learning about the priest who inspired it.

The annual "Run for Life," which includes a one-mile run and a 5K, is held at Mount St. Mary's University and benefits the Catoctin Pregnancy Center. The event is dedicated to the memory of Father Darin Didier, a seminarian at Mount St. Mary's and a former pregnancy center worker who died of a rare lymphoma cancer in 2005 at age 32. The well-liked seminarian was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Fargo, North Dakota, only three months before his death.

Father Didier was a gifted runner who placed 71st out of 8,981 finishers in the 1999 Twin Cities Marathon. In his diary, he compared the struggles and joys of running to the death and resurrection of Christ. Some runs were a burden, he said, while others felt like he was "floating along." No matter what, he insisted, Christ was always present.

"The important thing is to keep lifting up the head, raising up the knees, pumping the arms and moving forward so as to finish the race," Father Didier wrote in his diary, "as Christ is there and wants us to persevere with our hearts and minds directed toward the love of Him."

Read the rest here:

<http://www.catholicreview.org/subpages/EditorialBlogGroup2.aspx?action=170>

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