

## Day 233 – Sunday, November 8, 2020

The snow arrived, so pray that I will be able to get to Albertville for the 9:00am Mass. Time is short on Sunday, so I am sending a part of my Sunday homily. The gospel is the 10 bridesmaids, five wise and five foolish.

When I was younger I was in great shape. I remember times when my friends would say, “Let’s go for a run.” I would go, and not have a problem, even though I did not run regularly. Now I am old and fat and would probably collapse if I had to run more than a block. Even when I was young I was in awe of Marathon runners. Just the idea of running 26 miles, or 40 kms, was enough for me to sit down and have an ice cream cone. When I watch a marathon on TV there are two types of people that intrigue me. The first, and they are very few, enter the stadium and they are completely spent. They have used up every single ounce of energy in their body. They are so spent that they collapse and the only way they can continue is that if someone, who is a good sportsman, helps them up and across the finish line. The second group that intrigues me are the leaders, usually first, second and third. After running 26 miles, or 40 kms, they have enough energy left to sprint the last few hundred meters. They have saved enough energy in their bodies to stave off any last minute challenges to the winners’ circle.

I think both of these groups have something to say about our faith. The first. Those who are completely spent, teach us that we need to pace ourselves. Because if we burn out, if we exhaust ourselves completely, we will not be good for anything...in fact we become a burden on the community. This is not a good thing. We see this in the five foolish bridesmaids, who did not pace themselves well, and burnt themselves out and were not good for anything in the end. The second group, those who were able to sprint at the end, paced themselves, and were prepared for anything that might come up at the end. We see this in the five wise bridesmaids, who prepared themselves for an extended wait. In the end they still had oil in their lamps and they went in with the bridegroom.

Let us mimic the actions of the wise bridesmaids, and not the actions of the foolish.

“Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, champagne in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming “WOO HOO what a ride!” (Hunter S. Thompson)

Sincerely,  
Fr. Jim Kaptein