

# EASY FOOTBALL, EASY FAITH

By Rev. Andrew P. Carrozza

“Oh Dad, I must play football!”  
cried his son with urgent plea.  
“Perhaps I’ll get a scholarship!  
How awesome that would be!  
But I don’t want a team like Mike’s:  
his coach is tough and cruel.  
He forces them to practice  
for three hours after school.  
And then he says they cannot eat  
the junk food they enjoy.  
They must drink milk, eat vegetables;  
that’s no life for a boy!  
No early morning jogging  
and no sprinting through old tires.  
That’s overrated, useless trash  
no one truly requires.  
Just find a coach that won’t demand  
I change my life at all.  
I’ve no desire for sacrifice,  
I just want to play ball!”

Pure folly is that lad’s approach!  
He’ll never know success.  
Without hard work and discipline  
one simply can’t progress.  
If he truly wants a scholarship,  
if great he hopes to be,  
Then sacrifice and self-control  
are a necessity.  
He cannot simply glide through life  
with no thought to his game.  
He needs a coach who’ll challenge him  
and help further his aim.  
A coach who makes it easy  
does him not one bit of good.  
Rather, he’ll excel with one  
who treats him as he should,  
Who’ll press him, prod him, make it hurt,  
who’ll pierce his tepid soul,  
Who knows this is essential  
if he would achieve his goal.

Well, just as excellence in sports  
requires complete control,  
So too our urge for happiness  
demands a faithful soul.  
Christ came to bring the peace of mind  
that only can be known  
By one who follows all the rules  
and lessons he is shown.  
God is not being mean to us  
when He must tell us “no.”  
Instead, He’s steering us to things  
that truly help us grow.  
Don’t seek a Church that crushes not  
the passions you embrace.  
Seek one that speaks the Truth  
and shows the sins that you must face.  
Go not to God and beg from Him  
a life that’s light and free.  
Ask Him to press you to become  
the best that you can be.

