

## Marathon Mania

April 27, 2003

Once a year our little town of Wellesley becomes the focus of national, if not, world attention. Wellesley Center marks the exact halfway point (and I mean exact...) of the famous Boston Marathon. We are inundated with television cameras, reporters, and spectators to this marvelous sporting event. Having personally run numerous marathons, including several Boston's, I can't even begin to put into words how magic the moment is for both competitors and all those thousands of people lining the streets of Wellesley.

Yet, just a few hours after the last runner goes by, the town is already hard at work cleaning up the discarded tens of thousands paper cups that once held water for the runners. The trash left by the crowds is being collected and within twenty-four hours, there is no sign at all that the race even occurred! Life returns to normal... the race already consigned to memory.

As I get older, I realize how similar Wellesley's experience with the marathon is to each of our lives. Certainly there will be times of great joy and celebration... certainly there will be times of great sorrows and distress... but life is lived mainly on a day to day "routine" basis.

Jesus says, "Don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself... Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matt. 6:34). In other words, live each day with this perspective: "I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it." (Ecc. 3:14).

I know that I could allow myself to be swept up into the latest "mania" - whatever that might be (and trust me, there are plenty of manias that sweep through the Church with a capital "C") but somehow, I think the Lord wants us to remain steadfast - and for me, that means reading His word every day, daily praying for my brothers and sisters, and spending some time in private worship each and every day.

The manias are wonderfully exciting - but there will always be paper cups to pick up afterwards and trash to be gathered - after all, the marathon is run one step at a time!