



## St. Matthew's Cathedral eNews

### Christ + Compassion + Community

*From the Dean*

### Yogi's Advice for our Cathedral

Crack! It's baseball season. I love this time of year. The Rangers are in (sigh) next-to-last place. Again. (Sigh.) But it's early in the season, and the season still seems a real possibility for every team except the Astros, the Marlins, and the Brewers.

One of my all-time favorite baseball players is Yogi Berra, former catcher for the New York Yankees, and former manager for the Yankees, Mets, and bench coach for the Houston Astros.

Yogi has said a lot of really smart things that don't sound so smart but have a marvelous grain of truth in them. Here are a few "Yogi-isms" that speak to our life here at the Cathedral.

**"It ain't over 'til it's over."** In 1973, after Yogi had taken over as manager after the untimely death of Gil Hodges, the Mets were mired in last place. When a reporter asked him if the season was finished, Yogi responded, "It ain't over 'til it's over." The Mets went on to win the National League pennant.

***For us at the Cathedral, this is a reminder that God is always at work. Although we have many challenges ahead of us, we have a great God who "owns the cattle on a thousand hills" and reminds us that "greater is he that is in you than the one who is in the world."***

**"A nickel ain't worth a dime anymore."** Yogi would go to Henry's in Verona, New Jersey, to buy his newspaper in the mornings. He said this when he only had a nickel with him and the price for the newspaper went up to a dime.

***We need to be aware that the things that worked yesterday may not work today. God's Truth is unchanging; however, our methods do have to change in response to changed circumstances, attitudes, tastes, and life situations. As the prayer for ordinations says, "things which were cast down are being raised up, things which had grown old are being made new. . ."***

**"It was hard to have a conversation with anyone, there were too many people talking."** Yogi once went to a White House dinner at the invitation of President Gerald Ford, and he said that the politicians were so noisy, he couldn't hear a thing.

***Our world has a lot of external noise. The rise of computers, electronic tablets, and smart phones often act as an electronic ball and chain grabbing our attention. People are looking for clarity in the midst of the various disparate voices, collateral noise, and entertainment opportunities that distract us from being able to hear that "still, small voice of God." In the end, it's all about relationships. Not the beauty of our liturgy, our music, our building. It's about helping to draw people into a relationship with the God of the Universe. Helping people to have a conversation with God above the noise of all the people talking around us. Liturgy, music, our building can help, but they are vehicles through which we gain access to the God who loved us before he laid the foundations of the world.***

**"A writer once asked me, 'What makes a good coach?' I answered, 'Good players.'" *The strength of our Cathedral congregation is not ultimately in who is the Dean. Our strength is in the players who call this their spiritual home. Like a coaching staff, the Dean and staff are just the facilitators of the people. People might visit because they are drawn initially by a priest or certain staff member, but they will stay because they sense the presence of God and have made friends.***