

Like a serve in tennis, Coach Holtz sent off a signed autographed picture to my father-in-law. And so, in my father-in-law's house, you can still see the National Champion Coach's autographed photo and signature, "Dear Miles, best wishes, Lou Holtz."

I am to this day edified by someone as important and busy as the head coach of a national Champion football team made time to humble himself and go to confession. Coach Holtz once said, "If you're not close to God as you once were, I wonder which one moved!" In confession, we move back towards God. He also made time to do something very nice for me when I had done almost nothing for him. An ultra busy person hardly needs one more thing to do, but he added a little extra to his plate to be nice to me.

Holtz gave great examples on and off the field. He practiced what he preached, but when he didn't, he practiced confession. Bono said, "I'm a follower of Christ who can't keep up." Every good confession is a chance to begin the race again.

So now the good coach will be buried in the cemetery on Notre Dame's campus, Cedar Grove. As it happens, I know just where his remains will be. His final resting place with his wife Beth is right by David Solomon's, and not far off from Alasdair MacIntyre's and Ralph McInerny's. Coach Holtz lived what he once said, "God didn't put us on this earth to be ordinary." And now I pray he has received an extraordinary reward and the ultimate championship victory.

About the author

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