

Damn Yankees is a famous Broadway musical whose leading character is a middle-aged man named Joe Boyd. Ever since he was a kid Joe had dreamed of becoming a famous baseball player. But the years have gone by and Joe realizes that his dreaming days are over; but he still hangs onto the hope of the dream. Then one night, Joe meets Mr. Applegate. Applegate tells Joe that he has the power to make the dream of baseball a reality. He can turn Joe Boyd, middle-aged man into Joe Hardy, a 22 year old star outfielder for the Washington Senators. But there's more: Joe can not only start for the Senators, he can also lead them to a pennant victory over the rival New York Yankees. After hearing all this, Joe and the audience have one question: Who is this Mr. Applegate? Well, he of course is Satan who is disguised in human form. That's

when Joe learns the catch in this whole deal. In exchange for stardom, Joe must sell the devil his soul.

Joe finds the offer to irresistible and agrees on one condition: He will be allowed to back out of the agreement, if he wishes, just before the Senators clinch the pennant race. Satan figures that if Joe has gone that far, he'll never back out, so he agrees. Joe kisses his sleeping wife good bye and leaves home to begin his new life.

Everything goes as planned: Joe joins the Senators as a rookie, and is an overnight sensation. In a matter of weeks, he is the toast of Washington. Fans cheer him; kids idolize him; and women adore him. His dream has become a reality and it is sweet.

But in the process of this reality, something happens to Joe. Slowly the fame and fortune begin to grow stale. Deep down he hungers for something more. Finally

the deadline with the devil arrives. The prospects of the pennant and the World Series are in the air. After much soul searching Joe cancels his deal. Perhaps Joe's behavior reflects the words of Jesus in the gospel of John: "What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose himself." As quickly as he appeared in baseball, Joe disappeared. He returned to his middle-aged life as Joe Boyd.

Joe would have to agree with Jesus who said to the crowd, "Do not work for food that perishes but for food that endures for eternal life. I am the Bread of Life. Your ancestors ate manna in the desert but they died; This is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die."

Our human heart has a hunger that nothing on earth can satisfy. That is a hard lesson for all of us to learn if we are ever to find true happiness. Fame and fortune will not fill the void in the heart. In the end these twin demons will only leave us wanting more. This is a lesson we need to stress to our young people as they get ready to enter the world. The world likes to fool people into believing that all one has to do is get a lot of money and life will be perfect. Look at offers made by the lottery or shows like Who Wants to be a Millionaire; The fallacy is right there in front of us every week. The truth is Christ is the source of all richness in this world. Christ's sacred Body and Blood is what curbs our appetite, nourishes us and gives us the strength we need to live and live well.

In a few minutes we will be coming forward to receive Christ into our hearts, our minds, and our souls. Let us recall his words as we come forward, “Do not work for food that perishes but for food that endures for eternal life... I am the Bread of Life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and who believes in me will never thirst.” Let us remember that our hearts were made for God and they will not rest until they rest in God.