



Is your parish truly ready for Divine Mercy Sunday?

Divine Mercy Sunday

www.DivineMercySunday.com

Use Catholic faith to help survive life's 'blitz,' football star's dad says

By Mike O'Connell
4/3/2007

The Catholic Free Press (www.catholicfreepress.org)

WORCESTER, Mass. (The Catholic Free Press) - California businessman Tom Brady Sr. didn't come to a men's conference to tell Hollywood-ready tales about a Super Bowl-winning son and a family leading perfect lives. He came to tell the truth - and to challenge area Catholic men to use their faith to deal with life's pressures.



NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS' QUARTERBACK TOM BRADY - Quarterback Tom Brady celebrates the New England Patriots' Super Bowl victory Feb. 3, 2002, in New Orleans. The father of the three-time Super Bowl championship quarterback told more than 1,000 men gathered for the 7th Annual Worcester Diocesan Men's Conference at the DCU Center in Worcester, Mass., said, in talking about his family, that "we're not talking about the Brady Bunch on TV where everything seems to work out." (CNS/Reuters)

"I want to make absolutely clear what I'm talking about today: The Brady family is not any different than anybody else's journey in the audience," he told more than 1,000 men gathered for the 7th Annual Worcester Diocesan Men's Conference at the DCU Center here. "We're not talking about the Brady Bunch on TV where everything seems to work out."

Of course, much has worked out for the Brady clan. Young Tom, the quarterback for the New England Patriots, has won championships, attended a State of the Union address, hosted "Saturday Night Live" and made more money than he could spend in several lifetimes. Tom Sr. has a thriving financial planning company, is still happily married after 38 years, and maintains solid relationships with his four children and three grandchildren.

But the family has faced its share of issues, Tom Brady Sr. told the Worcester audience.

"There's no Pollyanna in the Brady family," he said. "We have in our family experienced the pain of divorce, the

anguish of family feuds. We've been addicted with the Irish flu - or perhaps that's alcoholism. And other addictions as well." He added that he himself was abused as a child.

Brady, 62, did not speak specifically about the well-publicized news that son Tom and his former girlfriend, actress Bridget Moynihan, are expecting a child outside of marriage. But Brady did note that this isn't the first time this has happened in his family.

"When it comes to grandchildren being born outside of wedlock, we're three for three," he said. "There's disappointment there because that's not really kind of the way it's done. But I love the fact that they're here with us - rather than the alternative that so often happens in society today."

Brady called his speech "Surviving the Blitz" - using a football metaphor for the blitz-like pressures we all encounter in everyday life. To illustrate the football part of it, Brady rolled a film clip of his son being patted by tacklers, one after another, 20 or more times.

ARTICLE TOOLS

- E-Mail This
- Printer-Friendly

Ads by Google

- [Catholic](#)
- [Catholic High School](#)
- [The Church](#)
- [Religious](#)
- [Bad Religion Lyrics](#)

EMAIL DEALS »

Special Deals and Discounts sent to your inbox.

[Sign Up](#)

I want a Bachelor's degree in ...

Business -- Administration & Mgmt.

[Submit](#)

I want a Master's degree in ...

Business -- Administration & Mgmt.

[Submit](#)

MOST POPULAR »

[Emailed](#) [Viewed](#) [Rated](#) [Searched](#)

1. [National Catholic Register: Sex sells girls short - Psychologists point to marketing, media exposure](#)
2. [For Catholic with autism, before the words came, there was music](#)
3. [Cut the cord for the Lord - Make ready way for faith-full Holy Week](#)
4. [Use Catholic faith to help survive life's 'blitz,' football star's dad says](#)
5. [Retired Episcopal bishop joins Catholic Church, third such move in history](#)
6. [Search for God's face with innocent hands, pope urges young people](#)
7. [Holy Week Passover Seder connects Catholics to the Last Supper, Jews](#)
8. [Muskrat love: Friday Lent delight for some OKed as fish alternative](#)
9. [Easter evidence - Biblical scholars less skeptical of Resurrection reality](#)
10. [Anatomically correct chocolate Jesus sculpture exhibit, condemned as 'hate' by Catholic group, canceled](#)

[Go to Complete List](#)

FEATURED BOOK »



True Girl Magazine

By True Girl

What will your teen be reading this summer? Give her True Girl for great advice, fun fashion, quizzes, health tips, and ...

In many ways, Brady said, avoiding football blitzes is easier than dealing with the ones that blindside you off the field. He said his quarterback son agrees.

"I was talking to Tom recently, and his comment was 'I don't have any trouble on the football field. It's just off the field my life is way more difficult,'" Brady said. "I would say, from my standpoint, and for many of you in the audience, that's the case: Surviving the blitz is sometimes a very difficult thing to do."

Blitzes come in many forms, Brady said. He discussed how people continually are let down by society's leaders: legislators lying, business leaders embezzling money, priests engaging in scandalous conduct. In our personal lives, he said, we all face financial pressures, health issues, marital discord and problems dealing with our employers.

"All of these common day instances eat away at our faith," he said.

How does one "survive the blitz"? Brady didn't boil down the formula to a single slogan, other than to do what he has done - draw upon the principles of the faith.

"Through the resources of our Catholic faith, there's been some degree of normalcy in our lives," Brady said. "Even though there's been a lot of pain in a lot of areas, there's been a tremendous amount of joy. That's what this journey is about. Actually, I think the journey could be summed up as living out the ordinary in these extraordinary times."

He described how he feels "love and strength" in religious ceremonies; how he has developed longtime friendships through the love of the sacraments; how he has attended a Wednesday prayer group since 1982; how he enjoyed a three-day Cursillo in the mid '70s; and how he integrates prayer into all of his decisions.

Brady talked about times he and his wife went to church angry at each other but allowed the power of the Mass to "whisk away" their anger by the time of the sign of peace: "I can't go to church mad and not come out happy."

He also talked about how he learned at a marriage encounter that he had to stop being proud and tough, and to show his feelings more often.

"During that weekend my wife made a comment, 'It's really tough being married to Superman,'" he recalled. "She said 'I share all my problems, you never share yours.' That was the first time in my marriage I cried."

Brady also encouraged men in the audience to reach out to others to help them deal with the pressures they face.

"It's kind of like a theme of players on a football field," he said. "We all need to survive the blitz. It's just a lot easier to survive the blitz as a member of a team."

This story was made available to Catholic Online by permission of The Catholic Free Press (www.catholicfreepress.org), official newspaper of the Diocese of Worcester, Mass.

[A Roman Catholic Site](#)

Answers your Catholic questions. Stop by. From the Franciscans.
www.OnceCatholic.org

[Prayer Ringtone](#)

Send this complimentary ringtone to your phone right now!
RingRingMobile.com

[Daily Mass](#)

Pocket-size, complete readings, reflections, prayers, saints' lives
www.magnificat.com

[Catholic Domains/Hosting](#)

Get your Domain and Hosting for You, your Church or organization
www.catholicdomains.org

Ads by Google

RATE THIS

- | | |
|---|---|
| Was this helpful to you? | Would you like to see more on this subject? |
| <input type="radio"/> Very Helpful | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes, I am Interested |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Somewhat Helpful | <input type="radio"/> No, I am not Interested |
| <input type="radio"/> Not Helpful at All | |

MORE NEWS

Incredible, venerable egg – Nun breathes new life into ancient style
 Zimbabwe suffering worsens requiring 'change of heart,' 'miracle,' African bishops say
 Early '08 election campaigns lead to fears issues won't be tackled in '07
 Easter evidence – Biblical scholars less skeptical of Resurrection reality
 CISA: Libyan leader denies Christ's Crucifixion, denounces Christianity
 Good Samaritans bring generosity to cynical world, Pope Benedict writes in new book
 UCAN: Reflect on 'social sin,' do collective penance during Holy Week, archbishop urges Catholics
 Holy Week liturgies sign of Jesus' victory over darkness, death, pope says

First Name: Last Name: Age: State:

[News](#) | [Featured](#) | [Finance](#) | [A & E](#) | [Home & Family](#) | [PRWire](#) | [Prayers](#) | [Saints & Angels](#) | [Catholic Life](#) | [Books](#) | [Community](#) | [Forum](#) | [YCV](#) | [Services](#) | [About](#)
[Place an Ad](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [RSS](#) | [Make Catholic Online Your Homepage](#)

Copyright © 2007 Catholic Online

