

*Akhi, the beggar sage, sits at the city gates, instructing all in the dance of life.*

# Ask Akhi...



Dear Akhi,

Soccer is played all around the world. Have you gone to a soccer match? Do you have a favorite team?

-- Sports enthusiast

Dear Sport,

Oh yes, Akhi is familiar with soccer. Even in our small village, the children play with anything that looks like a soccer ball. I have never seen a real soccer ball in my village, only ones fashioned with a bit of cloth wrapped tightly around a jumble of old vines. But the children laugh just the same, and they are so excited to play.

When Akhi was much younger, living in a different city, there were soccer teams at each school. Everybody played then, too. And there were coaches. Yes, coaches to help the youngsters play the game well.

On the streets, the children all run for the ball, kicking wildly. Often, it is a bloody mess. On organized teams I have seen, coaches worked hard to discipline the children to keep to their positions, passing the ball down the field to score. You see, on a good soccer team, every player is important and all contribute to the victory, or at least to the fun.

Does Akhi have a favorite team? Yes. The one where each is valued as much as everyone else. Not a single star, but many "star" players. All are welcome on such a team.

Now Akhi has a question for you. What would you think if each nation in this world were a player on the soccer team, not one more important than another? Perhaps all major organizations and corporations in the world could play soccer together. All valued equally. Akhi thinks that would be more fun.

## Spotlight On: Conrad Gromada



***Involvement with Beacon Street: VP elect on the board***

***Occupation: Professor of Religious Studies and Assistant to the VP for Academic Affairs at Ursuline College in Pepper Pike OH; former Dean of Arts and Sciences***

***Birthday: January 18***

***City where you live: Twinsburg***

***Family members: Annette (wife), Learning Disabilities Specialist at Ursuline College***

***Favorite author: Karl Rahner, theologian, the "Thomas Aquinas" of our time***

***Favorite movie: "Oh God" with George Burns and John Denver***

***Hobbies: walking***

***Best thing about working with Beacon Street: linking theology with the arts***

***Personal Motto or Favorite Scripture quote: "Thy will be done . . . by us . . . now."***