

LOVE: WHAT'S THE POINT?

*“The love of God is not something vague or generic;
the love of God has a name and a face: Jesus Christ.”
- Pope Francis*

SAINTS AND PRAYERS

Saint Valentine (patron saint of happy marriages, love) Feast day: February 14

Known for the popular holiday St. Valentine's Day, the real Saint Valentine is the patron saint of happy marriages, betrothed couples, love, lovers, young people, and (fittingly) greeting card manufacturers. Despite the holiday for lovers, Saint Valentine was actually a martyred priest who was beheaded in Rome on February 14th in Rome. Very little is known about Saint Valentine and it is believed that the traditions of Valentine's Day developed in England inspired by the work of Geoffrey Chaucer. In 1969, the feast of Saint Valentine was removed from the Roman Catholic Calendar of Saints because so little is known about his life and certainly not enough to connect with the common practices associated with the holiday today.

Prayer for Loving Others

Lord, Make me an instrument of your love.
May I see each circumstance in my life
as an opportunity to grow in your love.
May I see my environment
as a place to grow in your love.
May I then take this love to other people.
When I am tempted to become impatient,
help me to be patient.
When I am tempted to become unkind,
help me to be kind.
When I am tempted to become jealous,
help me to be tolerant.
When I am tempted to become boastful or proud,
help me give you the glory.
When I am tempted to be rude or selfish,
give me the gift of gentleness.
When I am tempted to take offense,
help me to let go.
When I am tempted to become angry with someone,
give me the gift of forgiveness.
When I am tempted to become resentful,
give me your power to love.
Lord, grant that I may take no pleasure in criticizing others,
but that I may see good in them, as you do.
When I begin to concentrate on the faults and failures of others,
give me courage to praise their accomplishments.

Help me be loyal to those you give me to love.
Help me to believe in them,
even when they do not believe in themselves.
To expect the best from them,
but accept the best they can give.
May I always defend them,
as you always defend me.
All gifts and powers come from you.
All will come to an end.
With one important exception, the gift of love!!!
Lord, when I was a child,
I thought like a child,
I acted like a child,
and I reasoned like a child.
Now that I have become an adult,
I release my childish ways.
Amen.