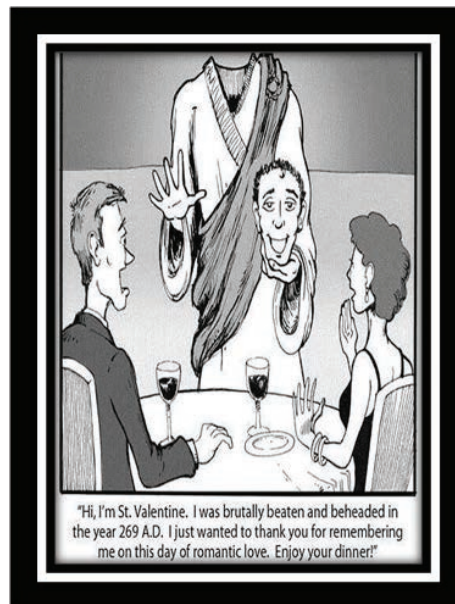


My Dear Parishioners,

Greetings and Happy Valentine's Day! Several years ago, I came across the cartoon below:



Beyond its obvious humor, I like the truth and startling mystery that it contains. The Truth is found in the caption: St. Valentine really was a martyr in 269AD! And the startling mystery is in the faces of the characters. Is it not mysterious even humorous that St. Valentine though beheaded is smiling! And the couple though well, have a horrified faces! I suppose I would be horrified too, but the cartoon, like the very Feast invites further thought about Love. While not opposed to the romantic, love is much MORE. Valentine's Day offers a chance to consider the MORE of the other, the MORE of the one you love.

As a priest, I see this MORE each week here in our parish and its startling nature is worth pointing out. I see it in

- In the nurse changing the patient and emptying the bed pan.
- In the one who visits and spends time with the Alzheimer patient.
- In the wife caring for her husband or vice versus.
- In the young adult, choosing not to live together before marriage.
- In the alcoholic, fighting the fight, attending meetings, faithful to the Blue Book.
- In the parent, waking up, going to work, and attending sports events, holding onto boundaries.

All of these are examples of love and they startle in their difficulty. They are even mocked today. But they point to the MORE. The MORE of the other, the MORE that is God. Our world can only say LOVE IS LOVE...which is non-sense. As Christians, we say Love is willing the good of the other, even when it demands our all.

In the coming weeks, our parish will receive several people into full communion with the Church. Two of our parishioners, Deanna Huber and Christine Abate, will receive the Eucharist for the first time and be confirmed. Both have pursued the love of God and been pursued by Him. The Catholic faith means something more to them and they are witnesses to that MORE which is often mocked and taken for granted. I encourage you to come to the 10:30 Mass Feb. 27th and see this happy day.

For this week, A Happy Valentine's Day. Enjoy both the Chocolate and the one you share it with!

Peace,

Fr. Rogers