

Happy Saint VALENTINE'S Day

St. Valentine of Rome was a physician and a priest—some say also a bishop. A 3rd century Roman emperor, Claudius II believed unmarried men made better soldiers. So he banned marriage. But our St. Valentine kept on

marrying couples secretly. He was found out and arrested, judged to be guilty of death and imprisoned. In prison he wrote letters to his friends asking them in their love to "Remember your Valentine." He died on Feb. 14th in 269.

St. John the Evangelist writes: "Love not the world, nor the things which are in the world. If any man love the world, the charity of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world is the concupiscence of the flesh, the

concupiscence of the eyes and the pride of life" Jesus also told us to: "Love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, with thy whole soul, with thy whole mind and with thy whole strength. This is the first commandment."



Saint Paul writes: "Who then shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation? Or distress? Or famine? Or nakedness? Or danger? Or persecution? Or the sword? As it is written: For thy sake, we are put to death all the day long. We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. In all these things we overcome, because of Him that has loved us."

St. John tells us

"Dearly beloved, let us love one another: for charity is of God. Every one that loves is born of God and knows God. He that loves not, knows not God: for God is charity. In this is charity: not as though we had loved God, but because He has first loved us, and sent His Son to be a propitiation for our sins. If God has so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

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"Let us therefore love God: because God first hath loved us."

"My dearest, if God hath so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

Our Lord says: "No man can serve two masters. For either he will hate the one, and love the other: or he will sustain the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. If any one love me, he will keep my word. If you love me, keep my commandments. If you keep my commandments, you shall abide in my love."

"You have heard it said: Thou shalt

love thy neighbour, and hate thy enemy. If you love them that love you, what thanks are to you? For sinners also love those that love them. But I say to you, Love your enemies: do good to them that hate you: and pray for them that persecute and calumniate you: for if you love them that love you, what reward shall you have? do not even the publicans do this?"

"Greater love than this no man hath, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)