

Welcome to the 3rd Edition of The Fatima Faithful newsletter. This is published once a month, shared as an insert in the Bulletin, available on our website and FaceBook page. We would love to know what you think and include suggestions you may have for future articles. Emailing newsletter@ourladyoffatima.org is the most effective way to reach out. Vicki Johnson, Editor

Take a closer look at Sainthood.

Do you want to be a saint? All of the saints are in Heaven. So if you want to make it to Heaven, you want to be a saint! It's important to remember that the saints were human beings - they sinned (frequently), doubted (sometimes), and wondered whether they were doing the right thing (more than you imagine). As anyone does, the saints struggled with their false selves and to become who God wanted them to be. Becoming more of who we were created to be, knowing and being our true self is the path to holiness.

Through the gifts we receive, we manifest a personal way of holiness that enlivens the larger community. We help to build up the "Kingdom of God" in ways that others may not. St. Mother Teresa shares this insight in her most famous saying: "You can do something I cannot do. I can do something you cannot do. Together let us do something beautiful for God."

"Holiness is the most attractive face of the Church," Pope Francis declares in a new apostolic exhortation. In it he reminds Christians, "The Lord asks everything of us, and in return he offers us true life, the happiness for which we were created. He wants us to be saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence." (Gaudete et Exsultate)

A Thirteen Step Guide to Becoming a Saint has been distilled from the writings of a beloved saint,

(Continued on back page...)

Saint Valentine's Quiz

This saint was...

- a priest in the Roman Empire who helped persecuted Christians during the reign of Claudius II, was thrown in jail and later beheaded on February 14.
- a Catholic bishop of Terni who was beheaded, also during the reign of Claudius II.
- someone who secretly married couples when marriage was forbidden, or suffered in Africa, or wrote letters to his jailer's daughter, and was probably beheaded.
- all, some, or possibly none of the above.

If you guessed **d)**, give yourself a box of chocolates!

Although the mid-February holiday celebrating love and lovers remains wildly popular, the confusion over its origins led the Catholic Church in 1969 to drop Saint Valentine's Day from the Roman calendar of official, worldwide Catholic feasts. Those highly sought-after days are reserved for saints with more clear historical records.

After all the saints are real individuals for us to imitate.

The holiday's roots are in the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia, a fertility celebration commemorated annually on February 15. Pope Gelasius I recast this pagan festival as a Christian feast day circa 496, declaring February 14 to be St. Valentine's Day. For Roman men, the day continued to be an occasion to seek the affections of women, and it became a tradition to give out handwritten messages of admiration that included Valentine's name.

There was also a conventional belief in Europe during the Middle Ages that birds chose their partners in the middle of February.

Thus the day was

dedicated to love, and people observed it by writing love letters and sending small gifts to their beloved. Legend has it that Charles, Duke of Orleans, sent the first real Valentine card to his wife in 1415, when he was imprisoned in the Tower of London. (He, however, was not beheaded, and died a half-century later of old age.)

Reprinted from articles appearing in the St Anthony Messenger national magazine and Infoplease website, Borgna Brunner



The Helping Hand

ON FORMED. Remember to signup for this free and extensive Catholic resource service, including top rated videos, audio books and Bible studies. Look for...the movie Life For Life, Maximilian Kolbe; Listen to Life Lessons, Fifty Things I Learned in My First Fifty Years; for kids there's OPUS JOYOUS show, The Catholic Voyagers episode.



And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NRSV)

As we approach the romantic holiday of Saint Valentine's Day, we can reflect upon the meaning of love in our lives. The famous, beautiful Bible passage, quoted here, is often chosen by couples to be read during their wedding liturgy.

This letter that Saint Paul wrote to the church in Corinth was written in the common language of the time, Greek. Were you aware that the Greek language has more than one word for love? English does not, so we can only translate the Greek with the one word "love."

Philia means "affectionate regard, or friendship." It is a dispassionate, virtuous love, expressed variously as loyalty to friends (specifically, "brotherly love," which is why Philadelphia is known as the city of brotherly love), family, and community, and requires virtue and familiarity.

Eros means "love, mostly of the sexual passion," and is the root of the English word *erotic*. The Modern Greek word "erotias" means "intimate love". Although eros is initially felt for a person, with contemplation it becomes an appreciation of the beauty within that person, or even becomes appreciation of beauty itself.

Most importantly, the kind of love that Saint Paul says is the greatest is expressed in his word *agape*. This means "charity; the love of God for man and of man for God". *Agape* is used by Christians to express the unconditional love of God for his children. This love is most deeply expressed by the self-emptying love given to the world by Christ's sacrifice on the cross. This is the way that we are to love one another, completely and unconditionally.

May the love that we express to each other always be an *agape* type of love, so that we can imitate the love of Christ in all that we do.

Sainthood (continued)

St. Therese of Lisieux ("The Story of a Soul") (excerpt from Leaders that Follow)

- Depend on God's Grace
- Start Small
- Don't Lose Hope
- Accept Trials & Suffering
- Have No Fear
- Put God's Will Above Your Own
- Be Willing to Fail
- Step Outside of Your Comfort Zone
- Read the Bible
- Receive the Holy Eucharist Daily
- Learn to Love

Upcoming Diocesan Events

Catholic Teens United (CTU)
on Sunday, February 10, 2 pm at St. John Neumann

St. Meinard Young Adult Initiative, Ages 23-29, at Sacred Heart Cathedral

Fr. Jacques Philippe Conference
February 28 to March 4 at Sacred Heart Cathedral

Right to Life

Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you..."

On January 22nd 1973, the US Supreme Court issued their ruling on the Roe vs Wade case, giving women legalized access to abortion in all 50 states.

Our Catholic faith teaches us that every human life is sacred, holy, and precious from conception until natural death. The origin of OLOF's Respect Life Committee stemmed from the heartache and concern of individual parishioners coming together in prayer and discernment to address the effects of this ruling on our church family and community.

Since prayer is our strongest defense in standing for LIFE at all stages, we do this at OLOF by:

- Praying the ProLife Rosary before the 11 am Mass each Sunday
- Praying at the local abortion clinics for the unborn, women, men and families that are/have been affected by abortion
- Participating in the Prayer Chain for Life on the first Sunday of October in Maryville
- Praying during the 40 Days for Life, an ecumenical event in Knoxville

- Supporting services provided by Blount Co Pregnancy Resource Center and Pregnancy Help Center in Knoxville

- Providing prolife educational support to our youth ministries

- Going to Washington, DC for the March for Life which was last weekend (January 18)

These are some of the examples of the participation of OLOF parishioners throughout the year.

On January 13th, 1984 a Proclamation was issued by then President Ronald Reagan that every year the Sunday closest to the 1973 decision would be designated as **Sanctity of Human Life Sunday** in observance of the gift, thanksgiving, and dignity of each life; which we celebrated last Sunday, January 20.

The Respect Life Committee meets on the 4th Tuesday every other month at 1 pm in the Fatima Center.

For more information, please contact: Esther Golightly 865-310-0690 or Deb Maupin 865-806-9118.

God Bless and thank you for your support.

