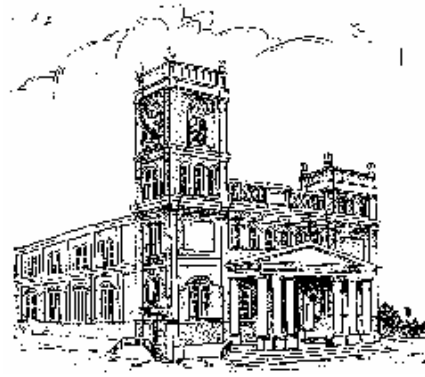


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A Little "extra" for O.L.G. parish family

February 10, 2008

St. Valentine's Day – its History!

Did you know that the very first roots of Valentines Day came from the Roman Fertility Festivals? It's quite interesting really. Young males of nobility and Magistrates would strip down to their birthday suits and proceed to run wildly through the streets clutching "shaggy thongs", (I'm not really sure what a shaggy thong is) and striking those that would happen into their paths. Apparently young ladies would hold out their palms in anticipation of a strike from a thong. This was believed to bring good fortune, primarily to the pregnant population.

In Rome in A.D. 270, Valentine had enraged the mad emperor Claudius II, who had issued an edict forbidding marriage. Claudius felt that married men made poor soldiers, because they were loath to leave their families for battle. The empire needed soldiers, so Claudius abolished marriage.

Valentine invited young lovers to come to him in secret, where he joined them in the sacrament of matrimony. Claudius learned of this 'friend of lovers', and had the priest brought to the palace. The emperor, impressed with the young priests dignity and conviction, attempted to convert him to the Roman gods, to save him from otherwise certain execution. Valentine refused to renounce Christianity and imprudently attempted to convert the emperor. On February 24, 270, Valentine was clubbed, stoned, then beheaded." Legend has it that on the eve of his execution he passed a note to his Jailer. The note was to his sweetheart, and simply titled "From Your Valentine". Heartwarming isn't it?

So how did this madness reach our continent? Well, it came with the first British settlers. As early as 1847 a genius young lady named Esther Howland used her fathers stationary shop to fabricate those cute, frilly little heart shaped boxes. Cha-Ching, this is the first record of capitalization on this "sweethearts" holiday. Hallmark still hands out an annual award for "Greeting Card Visionaries" in her name.

May We Always Have

"May we always have...

Enough happiness to keep us sweet;
Enough sorrow to keep us human;
Enough faith to give us courage;
Enough wealth to meet our needs;
Enough trials to keep us strong;
Enough failure to keep us humble;
Enough friends to give us comfort;
Enough determination to make each day a good day."



Behind Every Successful Man

There's a charming story about a successful CEO who was traveling with his wife along an interstate highway when he noticed the car was low on gas. He got off the highway at the next exit and soon found a rundown, one-pump gas station. The CEO asked the attendant to fill the tank and check the oil, then went for a little walk to stretch his legs.

As he returned to the car, the husband noticed that the attendant and his wife were engaged in an animated conversation. The conversation stopped as the CEO paid the attendant. But as he was getting back into the car, he noticed the attendant wave and heard him say, "It was great talking to you again."

When they drove off, the CEO asked his wife if she knew that man. She said, "Yes, in fact we went to high school together and dated steadily for about a year."

"Boy, were you lucky that I came along," bragged the husband. "If you had married him, you'd be the wife of a gas station attendant instead of the wife of a successful chief executive officer."

"Oh honey," replied the wife, "if I had married him, he'd be the chief executive officer and you'd be the gas station attendant."

The Claddagh Ring

Some years ago divers located a 400-year-old sunken ship off the coast of Ireland. Among the treasures they found on the ship was a man's wedding ring. When it was cleaned up, the divers noticed that the ring had an inscription on it. Etched on the wide band were two hands holding a heart. Under the etching were these words: "I have nothing more to give you."

Of all the treasures found on that sunken ship, none moved the divers more than that Claddagh ring and its beautiful inscription.

Cure or Relief Anthony DeMello, SJ,

"Even the best psychologist will tell you that people don't really want to be cured. What they want is relief; a cure is painful."

Love is to be Vulnerable C.S. Lewis

"To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket—safe, dark motionless, airless—it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable...The only safe place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers of love...is Hell."



**WHERE IS
YOUR HEART?**