

Sir Knights

In 1984, Tina Turner released the song "What's Love Got to Do with It", which became an instant hit, as well as her best-selling single, selling over two million copies and earning a Grammy Award for song of the year. At this time of year we often hear songs and references to love, especially with Valentine's Day being right in the middle of the month.

Valentine's Day is advertised as the ultimate celebration of love in this country. Roses, candy, jewelry and so much more are purchased as gifts. It is second only to Mother's Day for going out to eat. And 145 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged, and that doesn't include the kid's Valentine's cards exchanged in classrooms.

Hallmark, always at the forefront of greeting card trends, came up with the slogan many years ago to help capitalize on this by saying, "When you care enough to send the very best." And people flock to their stores to purchase cards in order to "send the very best" to their loved ones.

Well, when it comes to love, the absolute very best was sent to us over 2000 years ago. Instead of on a greeting card, this gift was given by God and is mentioned in God's Word in a passage familiar to all of us; John 3:16, which reads, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Two months ago we commemorated that gift at Christmas, when we celebrated the birth of Christ. And we will acknowledge the fulfillment of that gift two months from now at Easter, when we celebrate his glorious resurrection following his death on the cross where he demonstrated his love for us all by providing forgiveness for us.

So, what's love got to do with it for us as Knights Templar? For starters, we need to begin by loving one another, as Christ commands us to do in John 13:34. Then we need to unconditionally love others just as God loves us. I'm not saying that this is always going to be easy, but we, as Christian knights, have agreed to serve God even when it isn't easy. But really, it is not all that difficult to love others. Start by serving people in small ways, forgiving people, and showing the love of Christ to those you come into contact with. We show love when we give to, or participate in, our charitable foundations. Even when we work together in our commanderies (and other bodies), to help our craft grow in order to bring other men to our ranks so that they too can reach others.

There are so many ways to share God's love with the world around us, and each of us has been gifted to do this in our own unique way. So, what's love got to do with it? Love has everything to do with it.

Always and All Ways in Christ
Rick Saunders
Grand Prelate