



## Grand Prelate's Monthly Message

FEBRUARY 2025

It's February, the time of the year that we celebrate Valentine's Day, and there are so many references to love during this time of year. Hallmark card sales for Valentines Day come in second only to Christmas. 145 million Valentines Day cards are exchanged each year, and that doesn't count the pre-packaged cards used for children's classroom exchanges.

Valentines Day is a day that we set aside to celebrate love. But what is real love? And how can we develop and nurture a love worth giving?

Jesus had a lot to say about love. In one such reference, he was answering a Pharisee who asked him what the most important commandment in the Law of Moses was. Jesus replied "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:37-40)

Jesus was quoting from Deuteronomy 6:5, and Leviticus 19:18. But he alters it slightly by saying that we should love God with all our minds. The Greek word used here for 'mind' is *Dianoia*, which refers to thought or intellect, and commonly included "a way of thought" or "disposition." The Greek word for repentance is *metanoia*, which means "a change of mind". As believers in Christ, we think differently about life and have a new attitude because Christ lives in us. Our love for God should be the driving force of our lives. If what we do is not driven by our love for God, then nothing we do really matters.

As we draw closer to Christ, he funnels his love into our hearts. Only then will we have a love worth giving, because his love is the only perfect love that this world has to offer. Our love for God must be sincere. Not just by the words we speak, but also in our actions. This is where the second greatest commandment of loving your neighbor as yourself comes in; Love like you want to be loved. The lesson is simple: If you make loving God your first priority, then loving others comes naturally.

In John 13:34 Jesus tells his disciples: "I give you a new commandment: love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must love one another." We are to love like Jesus loved!

To love like God does is not an easy thing. But just trying to do it will change your life. Love is the greatest thing we can possess as followers of Christ. It is the one thing that will last. On Valentines Day we like to share our love with those we care about. Well, God wants to share his love too, and he wants to use us to do it. And unlike those cards Hallmark sells, God's love isn't just for one day a year. His love is for everyone every day.

Sir Knights, nothing should be more important to us than loving God and loving people. Let that fact remain in our hearts every moment of every day. If we practice love in this way, then we will light the path to help guide others to the love of Christ.

Always and All Ways in Christ

Rick Saunders

*Grand Prelate*