



St. Augustine's Clarion

6110 Fulton Road
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February 2010

Your Rector's Musings

Love Is...Taking Time to be Present

Perhaps one of the greatest struggles we ever have as human beings is to be present to the moment. It takes many of us, me included, a great deal of effort just to stay glued to what is in front of or around us. Likewise, as you have heard me say many times, it's also hard for us to practice BEING. Life is so much easier (at least we think) to be engaged in the DOING mode. Being requires discipline, in the same way as an Olympic athlete practices focus to be the best they can be in their sport.

So too we in our practice of BEING need the discipline of setting time apart just to allow God to be present to us. (MANIFEST is a good churchy term.)

Could each of us, as we approach the season of Lent (Ash Wednesday, February 17 to Easter April 4th), try to start or re-start a discipline of setting time aside just to allow God to connect with us.

You may be one who begs the question, "HOW DO I KNOW GOD'S VOICE/PRESENCE?"

It may come in a thought, a melody, a peace/calmness, an insight (ah ha!) or in any or all of the preceding. Like going to sleep with a problem and miraculously the next morning you've been given a solution.

In the coming Lenten season may we practice the presence of God. Yes, there are things to do and one of them is BEING.

Have a Holy and Blessed Lent.

Shalom, Bob+

P.S. More to come on "competing voices" in our next newsletter - those times when we are "being" but something is running interference and we can't just "be."



Love is...attending an AGM to grow your church

The AGM will be held February 14 following the 10:00 a.m. service. A light lunch will be served.

Love is...a Thank You note from Georgia Staines

January, 2010

Dear Friends at St. Augustine's,

Throughout this past difficult year, your support manifested by your continuing prayers, your positive strengthening thoughts, flowers and nourishing food have all sustained me and our family.

There have been crucial times when I have experienced the palpable power of our Lord through His people.

Ron and I are so grateful for your caring. Thank you.

God willing we will again rejoin you soon.

Georgia Staines



Love is...New Eyes, New View: Homelessness

Join us for a series of eye opening presentations about the issue of homelessness as seen through the eyes of photographers, poets, storytellers and film-makers.

4 Tuesdays, beginning Feb 23, each session starts at 7 pm.

More details will be shared when they are finalized.



Love is...Presence to our Young Children

Schedule of Events

- February 16: Shrove Tuesday, 5 p.m.
- February 21: noon – 2 p.m.
- March 14: noon – 2 p.m.
- March 28: Palm Sunday, 10 a.m.
- April 4: Easter Day, 10 a.m.
- April 11: noon – 2 p.m.
- May 16: noon – 2 p.m.
- June 13: Picnic, noon – 2 p.m.

Love is...being able to laugh at our selves and our assumptions



Love is...Learning about our Faith

First Light Program **Monday Evenings 7:00-9:00**

This is a 12 part DVD and discussion-based study of the historical Jesus and the Kingdom of God with two of the world's leading Jesus scholars on location throughout Galilee and Jerusalem.

You can still be part of this group. Contact Val McCormack at 780-410-1571.



Love is...celebrated on St. Valentine's Day.

There are three Saints Valentine listed in early martyrologies for February 14. That their feasts should end up united to a celebration in honour of lovers seems to have been more an accident than a design, though there are interesting complications that conspired to make it so.

Long ago the Romans celebrated the eve of their Lupercalia on February 14. This being a time of great festivity it is thought by some to be the reason that the martyrdom of saints on this day was merely an added attraction to the pagan celebration. Another possibility connects the Roman celebration in honour of Juno with this feast. The drawing of partners for the festival by maidens and youths oftentimes degenerated into extreme improprieties and it is through the desire to redeem the day that Christians thought to fix it as the date of the martyrs' feasts. Pope Gelasius appointed it an official feast in the fifth century and named St. Valentine as the patron saint of lovers.

Another story is that one of the Saints Valentine left a note in his cell the morning of his execution, into which he "cut curious devices" and wrote "pious exhortations and assurances of love" to the keeper's daughter, signing them "your Valentine."

St. Valentine's Day is a good day for talking to children about the reality of Christian love, and for stressing its beauty and strength in an age when it is so ignored and undervalued. It is a day, too, when we could pray for strength and courage to resist the pressures of society and for the grace to pass on to others the full truth of the Church's teaching on these matters.