



Grand Commandery of Minnesota

Knights Templar

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It's hard to believe that we are already in February. This Templar year is really flying, and it's going to just start going faster now. As I sit down to write these articles for the Knight Templar magazine, I always start off wondering what I am going to write about. Sure, it's easy in November, December, April and June, but months like February are a little more difficult. But like Lewis Carroll said "The time has come", said the walrus, "to talk of many things: Of shoes and ships – and sealing wax – of cabbages and kings".

When you think of Valentine's Day, we often forget that it used to be Saint Valentine's day. When researching a few things to bring up on this "month of love" I came across a good article about St Valentine, and thought it would be good as you plan for sharing the love with your sweeties, or even just yourselves this February.

1. It's possible that there were three St Valentines. The first was a physician/priest who was in Rome in the third century. With St Marius, he comforted Christians who were persecuted by Emperor Claudius II. He was arrested, tortured, condemned to death, and beheaded for his beliefs. This is the most common origin of the February Feast Day. The second was Bishop of Interamna (60 miles outside of Rome. He, too, was arrested, scourged, and beheaded by Emperor Claudius II. The third was martyred in Africa with several companions, but not much else is known of him. The only common thing about these three men is that they died for the love of God.

2. The custom of showing our love and affection date back to the Middle Ages. During this time, English and French birds began

mating on February 14th. Chaucer even wrote about it in one of his poems: *For this was on Seynt Valentyne's day. When every foul cometh ther to chose his mate.* So in addition to our Saints, it was the bird's behavior that added to the mystique of the festival, giving humans another definition of love to emphasize the affection.

3. While St. Valentine is the patron saint of lovers, engaged couples and happy marriages, there is another little known fact. He is also the patron Saint of young people and of epilepsy. While there is little else that would tie him to his other duties, it's like I said... a fact....

Sir Knights, as the darkness of the long nights continue to wear on this winter, I urge you to think, with love, about your Brethren. We all know someone who has wronged us – we are commanded by our Savior, to love them even more. We know that sometimes, these people need more love than hatred, and we all hope that by displaying this love, we may be able to turn them towards good. We also know those who need love and affection because they are forgotten by the world. The homeless, the poor of soul, those who have lost everything in this world, only to have the love of the next in our sights. Finally, there are those whom "should just know that they are loved. These are often aching to hear someone just say, "You are loved". We all can take a few moments out of our day to share the love of our God with these people – and hopefully, mirror His love of all of us.

Sir Knight Brian K. Dimatteo

Right Eminent Grand Commander

"Don't talk, act. Don't say, show. Don't promise, Prove."