Who and What We Love Makes Us Who We Are
Fr. Rick Malloy, S.J., Ph.D.

Next Tuesday is Valentine’s day, actually Saint Valentine’s day, the feast Hallmark Cards has made immensely profitable.

Who is St. Valentine? Much is legendary, but it is clear that St. Valentine was an early Christian, martyred for his belief in Christ by pagan Romans unhappy with the growth of Christian faith and values in society. Various stories have Valentine, a priest, secretly witnessing marriages for soldiers when the Emperor Claudius II forbade such unions. Married men, in the Claudius’ view, did not make good soldiers. For witnessing the marriages, Valentine was thrown in jail. The night before he was to be executed, Valentine wrote a note to the jailer’s daughter whom he had healed of blindness. The note was signed “from your Valentine.” And so the custom of exchanging “Valentines” on Feb. 14th was born.

It is wonderful to have a day on the church’s calendar so clearly linked with romantic love. Such love, from puppy love to teenage infatuation, to the emotionally turbulent and exhilarating experience of falling in love, can lead to real love, the deep, transformative, long lasting, true love we all deeply desire and seek. Real love, true love, committed love, always grows into the immensely rich and satisfying reality of self-sacrificial love, love that calls us to give all to another in marriage and parenting. The inane banality that The Big Bang Theory and Two and a Half Men caricature as “love” does such a disservice to the reality real love is, and must be, in our lives.

Ask any parent you know and they will tell you, in no uncertain terms, that raising a child is all about self-sacrifice, from endless car rides to tee ball and soccer games to the daunting demands of college tuition bills. Ask any married person you know. Not one will ever say, “Oh, after ‘x’ years of marriage, it’s still just like when we fell in love.” Falling in love has a three to six month expiration date. Being in love is the long haul, hard work of loving another person, day in and day out, year after year. “In real love, you want the other person’s good. In romantic love you want the other person,” writes Margaret Anderson.

God really loves us. God wants the best for us. God’s presence in our lives exists in and through the real love relationships we choose and commit to and live out. We need to realize God is present in who and what we love, and in who loves us. Pedro Arrupe, S.J., the great Superior General of the Society of Jesus from 1965-1983, put it this way:

"Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, than falling in a love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the mornings, what you will do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything.”

Stephen Carter, the Yale law school professor who writes novels on the side (when do some people sleep?) wrote beautifully, “Love is the disciplined generosity we require of ourselves when we would rather be selfish.”

We are called by our God, who is love, to love ourselves, others and God. “God is love and those who abide in love abide in God and God in them” (1 John 4:16b)

And often, to really feel and know what love is we turn to our poets. Imagine God singing Bob Dylan’s “Make You Feel My Love” to you:

The storms are raging on the rolling sea and on the highway of regret
The winds of change are blowing wild and free. You ain't seen nothing Like me yet
I could make you happy Make your dreams come true
There is nothing that I wouldn't do, go to the ends of the earth for you, To make you feel my love

Saint Valentine gave his all in love for God and others. May we receive the graces we need to live as Saint Valentine did.
Today our prime educational objective must be to form men-and-women-for-others; men and women who will live not for themselves but for God and his Christ - for the God-man who lived and died for all the world; men and women who cannot even conceive of love of God which does not include love for the least of their neighbors; men and women completely convinced that love of God which does not issue in justice for others is a farce."

Pedro Arrupe, S.J., 28th Superior General of the Society of Jesus, Valencia, Spain, 1973

The Community Outreach Office provides information on Volunteer Opportunities for individuals, groups, clubs, and residence hall floors. Our office is located in The DeNaples Center, Room 205B, and our webpage is www.scranton.edu/volunteers.

We are also on Facebook! Like Us!

Fat Tuesday Chocolate Fountain! Gorge Today! Give Tomorrow! Join The Community Outreach on Tuesday February 21 from 11am-1pm on the 2nd floor of DeNaples. Have some treats and ask us what YOU can do to help others during this Lenten season.

American Red Cross Blood Drive - Tuesday February 14. Give blood or volunteer! Long Center Lobby, 10am - 4pm. Contact Lori at fehlingerl@usa.redcross.org to volunteer.

Boy Scouts of America - college student leaders needed for troops around Scranton. Training and Clearances provided. After school hours. Contact Dana Healey at 570-207-1227 or danalynn78@aol.com

Cinderella's Closet - help with fashion show, organizing prom dresses, etc. Scranton Cultural Center, N Washington Ave or Steamtown Mall(easy walk or take the free COLTS college route bus). March 17 12-4pm; March 31 12-7pm; April 5 6-8pm; April 9 &10 10am-12pm; April 11 8-10pm. Contact the Junior League of Scranton at juniorleagueofscranton@gmail.com or call 570-961-8128

Discovery Hill Afterschool Program: Homework Help and Creative Activities for grade school kids. Hill Section location. Mondays and Thursdays beginning March 1st 2:30-3:30 (homework), 3:30-5:30 activities. Contact Melinda at mkrokus@bu.edu

Friends of the Poor - Groups/clubs/departments/residence halls/classes...run a canned food drive, soup collection, cereal drive, food drive between March 1st and April 30th for the Giveaway to Fight Hunger. Contact Sister Ann Walsh, IHM, at friendsofthepoor@frontiernet.net. Clubs should be mindful of the club guidelines on donations found athttp://matrix.scranton.edu/studentlife/ministries/community-outreach/clubs.shtml

Girl Scouts Jr. Mall Overnite at the Steamtown Mall - February 18-19 (Saturday 8:30pm to Sunday 6:30am). Female volunteers needed to run stations, fun activities, games, crafts, etc. Get 10 service hours in one shot! 40 volunteers needed. Contact Kristen at kbattle@gshpa.org or call 570-266-0115. Transportation available on COLTS bus route (free with college id)

Muscular Dystrophy Association - ON CAMPUS volunteer opportunity to help at the MDA Muscle Walk. Byron Center 9-2 on Sunday February 26. Help with registration, check in, setup/cleanup, a little accounting. Contact Joanne Liples at 399.office@mdausa.org or call 570-234-2450.
**Music Ministry**

Duplicate rehearsals are held every Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in Madonna della Strada Chapel:

- **Cantors** at 5:30 PM;
- **Choir & Instrumentalists** at 6:00 PM. Choose **ONE** night to attend.

New members welcome! Contact Jayne Lucas at: lucasm4@scranton.edu.

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**Liturгуіс Ministers**

Anyone desiring to serve as a liturgical minister
- **Lector,**
- **Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist,**
- **Hospitality Minister**

Contact Jayne Lucas at: lucasm4@scranton.edu.

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**Busy Student Retreat**

**BUSY STUDENT RETREAT CHALLENGE**

1. **Pray Each Day for 5 days**
   - Sign up in University Ministries 2nd floor DeNaples

2. **Meet with Spiritual Director**
   - E-mail Amy at hoegena2@scranton.edu for more info

3. **Find peace and purpose in your life**
   - E-mail Amy at hoegena2@scranton.edu for more info

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**The Examen**

Are you looking for some quiet time to spend with God?

Come spend 20 minutes in a reflective form of Ignatian Prayer....

Join us on:

**Thursday, February 16 at 9:45 PM in Sacred Heart Chapel**

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**Do You Want to Be a Connections Retreat Leader Next Year?**

Attend an information session to learn more and how to apply:

- **Thursday, February 16th,** 11:30 AM DeNaples 406
- **Friday, February 17th,** 4:00 PM DeNaples 405

**STOP IN UNIVERSITY MINISTRIES (2ND FLOOR DEnAPLES)**
**OR E-MAIL AMY AT HOEGENA2@SCRANTON.EDU**
**FOR MORE INFORMATION**
Weekly Collection

This week’s collection will go towards the Safety Net, a Non-profit social service agency providing emergency assistance to poor & needy who have exhausted limits and resources.

Last week’s collection for the St. Joseph's Family and Maternal Program was $311

Sunday Mass Presiders

Sunday, February 12
11:00 AM: Fr. McKinney, SJ
7:00 PM: Fr. Malloy, SJ
9:30 PM: Fr. Malloy, SJ

Sunday, February 19
11:00 AM: Fr. Mohr, SJ
7:00 PM: Fr. Cadigan, SJ
9:30 PM: Fr. McKinney, SJ

Exploring God and Faith Through Movies

February 24 - 25
Sign-up in University Ministries

Space is very limited. $10 retreat fee

UNIVERSITY MINISTRIES, DeNaples Student Center 200
570-941-7419
www.scranton.edu/ministry

Paulette Burton, Secretary/Receptionist, University Ministries: 941-7419
Joanne Gambacorta, Secretary, Vice President for University Ministries: 941-7419
Ellen Judge, Secretary, Office of Community Outreach: 941-7429; Mollie Vita, G.A. University Ministries; Danielle Frascella, G.A. Community Outreach Office