

Dear Brother Knights,

As we move toward the celebration of Valentine's Day, the concept of love can be something for us to consider. For us as Christians, it is never just a feeling, but it is a choice we make, and most often it must be connected to the idea of sacrifice. We see this most clearly in the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus, who chooses to embrace the cross in order to demonstrate God's mercy and limitless love for us sinners.

Our love for each other then must always be an imitation of the sacrificial love of Christ. This is evident in the love of spouses who often must sacrifice their own desires so that the love between them continues to be selfless and directed to the good of the other. It is evident in the love of parents for their children who make personal sacrifices for the well-being and the healthy and holy development of their children. And it should be displayed most prominently in our lives when we are commanded by Christ to love those who are not normally in our circle of family and friends. To love the orphan, the widow, the alien and our enemies is where the sacrificial nature of love becomes most visible.

Someone once told me, "Love can be a noun, but it is better when it is a verb!" As Knights, when we generously answer the call of our parish, our community or our Order, we are often called to this sacrificial love. I think it is in these times when we sacrifice our own wants/needs/desires in order to serve the other, when we truly show the love of our Supreme Head, Jesus Christ!

May the love of Jesus be poured out upon you and your families.

Vivat Jesu!

Fr. Dan Avila