

## THE FIRST VALENTINE

### TRUE LOVE

The British Library in London holds the oldest known surviving valentine, a poem composed in French in 1415 by Charles Duke of Orleans to his wife, which he sent while imprisoned in the Tower of London.

faith  
action

## FEBRUARY 14

### DID YOU KNOW?

Originally a Christian holiday, Valentine's Day is a celebration of love occurring annually on February 14. Although its origin is associated with Saint Valentine, Valentine's Day is not a religious holiday.

## CUSTOMS

### HEARTS AND CUPID

The primary custom associated with Valentine's Day is the exchange of love notes called valentines. Common symbols on valentines are hearts, the colors red and pink, and a picture of Cupid.

## ST. VALENTINE

### DID YOU KNOW?

St. Valentine was a third-century Roman priest who is widely believed to have been martyred on February 14 for his beliefs. He has since become the patron saint of love and engaged couples.



# VALENTINE'S DAY

*Jesus Loves Me, This I Know*



"If we have compassionate hearts like Jesus, we can be close to anyone who is in need of help." -Pope Francis

**"FOR GOD SO LOVED  
THE WORLD  
THAT HE GAVE HIS  
ONE AND ONLY SON,  
THAT WHOEVER  
BELIEVES IN HIM  
SHALL NOT PERISH  
BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE."**

*-John 3:16*



## IS YOUR HEART OPEN?

How can we show others the mercy of God? We say that God is compassionate, but we ignore the poor. We say that God loves us and has mercy on us, but we hold grudges against our friends. Our actions need to also reflect God's mercy. Pope Francis is encouraging the Church to think about God's mercy in their lives and to share that mercy with others. "Jesus looks for us and invites us to make room in the inner reaches of our heart. Do we realize it?"

## AROUND THE WORLD

Valentine's Day is now celebrated all around the world. In Japan and Korea, Valentine's Day has become a day where women to give chocolates, known as giri-choco, to all of their co-workers. A month later on 14th of March, known as White Day, men are supposed to thank those who remembered them on Valentine's Day with white chocolate or marshmallows. In Korea there is an additional Black Day, held the following month on the 14th of April, for less fortunate men who did not receive gifts on Valentine's Day to gather together to eat Jajangmyun, Chinese style black noodles topped with a black sauce.

## LOVE THE UNLOVEABLE



"Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love others as yourself" - Mark 12:30-31

Share with a partner how you can reach out to those who don't come to mind when we think of Valentines.