

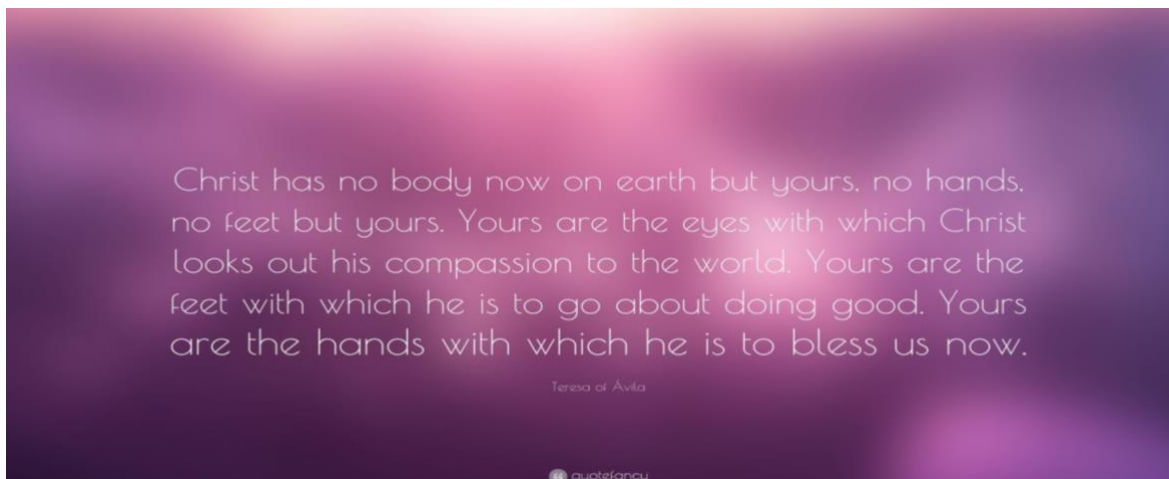
What's Love Got to do With It?

During Lent, we Catholics can see ourselves on a pilgrimage toward our great holy day of Easter. As a pilgrim, you may seek to step away from daily distractions and to move intentionally toward a deeper awareness of our God...this God who created us (and continues to create us), who keeps us safe and who redeems us in every moment of our life. Did you ever stop to think just how dependent we are on God for our very existence? It's not a terrifying moment to think about but actually is a moment of ASSURANCE. It is a moment of TRUST when we realize our utter dependence is on the God who created us, who keeps us, who redeems us, and keeps us holy.

During Lent, we focus on the powerful self-giving love of Jesus who came to earth to live with us, who tried to teach us a new way to live, and who suffered His passion for us and the giving of His life on the cross. So, what does that mean to us? If Jesus gave his all for us, what must we do? Obviously, we must do the same. How do we show and give love to others during Lent? Yes, we pray, we fast, and give alms. And that means different things to different people.

When we come to a Eucharistic Adoration service or come to the church alone to spend time with Him, we are deep in prayer to that Holy Sacrament, offering our profound gratitude and love for all that He has given to us and continues to give to us. On weekends (and other days), we reverently receive the Body and "Blood of Jesus in Holy Communion. We return to our seats and pray again and thank Jesus again for allowing us to be a part of Him. But, there is a third step at the end of our Eucharist. We hear the words, "Go forth, the Mass is ended, or "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life." Yes, just as Jesus sent His apostles into the world, so we are sent also. We are called to service, to be Christ for others, to share this love that has been so freely given to us. That will make our Eucharist complete. "Whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for Me."

Teresa of Avila wrote these words to us:



These powerful words tell us what Love has to do with it! Amen!