



Archdiocese of San Antonio
Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller



Fifth Grade Mass
San Fernando Cathedral
February 14, 2014

We have *three* saints to celebrate today! The first one is easy... which saint's name comes to mind when we talk about today, February 14?... St. Valentine, that's right! But today I'm wearing white vestments because it's the feastday of two other saints. Do you know who they are? Their names are a little more difficult than "Valentine." They are St. Cyril and St. Methodius.

Why are these two saints so important? Well, nearly 1200 years ago, these brothers, Cyril and Methodius, were born to a wealthy family in Greece and were called by God to be missionaries and spread the Good News to distant places. Cyril and Methodius had family from the area that today we call the Czech Republic, and they knew the language, so they were sent almost 2000 miles to that part of the world to help bring the Gospel to those people.

However, when they got there, the Prince asked them to start by translating the bible and the mass into the local language (which influenced many languages today like Czech, Polish, Russian and Slovak). The problem was that they didn't have an alphabet that could be used to write down their language. So, Sts. Cyril and Methodius created one! Can you imagine creating a new alphabet?

Well it worked so well that eventually it was used by many, many people. It even got named after one of the brothers; today it is called the “Cyrillic” alphabet. The most important thing about all of this is that those people got to read the bible and celebrate mass in their own language. Sts. Cyril and Methodius helped them to open their eyes to the Good News, just like Jesus opened the man’s ears in today’s Gospel.

If we put the story of Sts. Cyril and Methodius together with that of St. Valentine, who was a priest who got in trouble for marrying Christian couples when it was illegal to do so, we learn something very important. This day, February 14, is a day dedicated to love, and there is no love more important than the love of God. God loves us so much we can’t even describe it, and we have the great gift of being able to love him back. Our God calls to us with those words from the Psalm: “I am the Lord, your God: hear my voice.” He wants us to hear his voice and follow him in love. St. Valentine loved God so much that he kept doing his work even when they threatened his life! Sts. Cyril and Methodius loved God so much that they moved across the world to help other people come to love him.

How much do we love God, my brothers and sisters? Do live our lives in a way that helps others to open their eyes to God’s love and their ears to his voice? Do we share our love of God with others, even when it may not be popular? It’s a hard thing to do sometimes, but it is so worth it. Everyone loves to be loved, and we are loved by the God of the whole universe! Remember that today. God loves us and we get to love him back. We get to open people’s ears and hearts to him. There is no way to have a better valentine than God. Always love him with your whole heart!