

SAINT VALENTINE

St. Valentine was officially recognized by the Roman Catholic Church is known to be a real person who died around A.D. 270. However his true identity was questioned as early as A.D. 496 by a Pope who referred to the martyr and his acts as “being known only to God”

One account describes Valentine as a temple priest who was beheaded near Rome by the emperor Claudius II for helping Christian couples wed.

A different account claims Valentine was the Bishop of Terri, also martyred by Claudius II on the outskirts of Rome. Because of the similarities of these accounts, it’s thought they may refer to the same person. Enough confusion surrounds the true identity of St. Valentine that the Catholic Church discontinued liturgical veneration of him in 1969, though his name remains on its list of officially recognized saints.

Saints are certainly expected to keep busy in the afterlife. Their holy duties include interceding in earthly affairs and entertaining petitions from living souls. In this respect, St. Valentine has wide-ranging spiritual responsibilities. People call on him to watch over the lives of loves, to intervene regarding beekeeping and epilepsy, as well as the plague, fainting and traveling. He is also the patron saint of engaged couples and happy marriages.

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