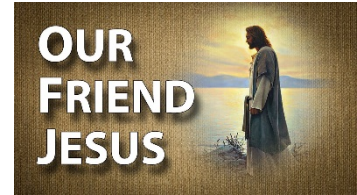


JOE'S CAFÉ...Stop by for a tasty bit!

Joe Romanazzi, Past Grand Knight

The Source of all True Friendship and Love



The following poem, "*The Gift of Friendship*," was written by Helen Steiner Rice (1900 – 1981). Friendship in Helen Steiner Rice's poetry, is a sacred and cherished bond that sustains us through life's ups and downs, trials and triumphs. Her words inspire us to embrace the beauty of friendship, to value and nurture the relationships that bring light and love into our lives.

The Gift of Friendship

***Friendship is a priceless gift
That cannot be bought or sold,
But its value is far greater
Than a mountain made of gold -
For gold is cold and lifeless,
It can neither see nor hear,
And in the time of trouble
It is powerless to cheer
It has no ears to listen,
No heart to understand,
It cannot bring you comfort
Or reach out a helping hand -
So when you ask God for a Gift,
Be thankful if He sends
Nor diamonds, pearls or riches,
But the love of real true friends.***

The **Bible** gives us a great vision of real true friendship. In **John 15:13**, Jesus said, "greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." Through his death on the cross, Jesus expressed the deepest love for his people, his dear friends. He gave the gift of eternal life to all who believe and trust in Him.

In addition to the **Bible**, the saints are precious friends to have. They remind us that a true friend is difficult to find and when we do find one, we should do all we can to maintain that friendship. For example, **St. Thomas Aquinas said**, "*There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship.*" **St. Maximus the Confessor said**, "*A faithful friend is a strong defense; for when things are going well with you, he is a good counselor and a sympathetic collaborator, while when things are going badly, he is the truest of helpers and a most compassionate supporter.*" **St. Augustine said**, "*No friends*

are true friends unless You, my God, bind them fast to one another through the love which is sown in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.”

My Brothers, friendship came from God as a gift to us. True friendship withstands the test of time and circumstances. Our Heavenly Father is the source of all true friendship and love. As Catholic Christians, our greatest joy is found in our fellowship with God, the saints and one another.