

## LOVE IS A RING

A beautiful German song tells us that “Love is a ring. A ring has no end.” A ring is a symbol of love in a marriage. In our Congregation each of us wears a ring as a symbol of our commitment to live a life of love dedicated to God.



We attend to the reality of love by our actions and our words in many ways. Heart to heart conversations with God are paramount. We say “I love you” to family members and close friends and reinforce that expression of love with letters, cards, loving acts and gifts. We strive to maintain an unbroken circle of love, a loving, peace-filled stance in life.

Yet at times the circle of love is weakened or even broken. We have all experienced fractured relationships in our life. Whatever the cause may have been, the result is always that the circle of love is less than it could be.

Unlike romantic accounts of love, love doesn’t just happen. It requires effort. Living a loving, peace-filled stance toward all of creation is our Franciscan call. It is a call to move from superficiality to deep communion with the Love and Goodness that is God and all that God loves. Every relationship we participate in, every action we engage in, every word we speak or write, all beg to mirror God’s unending love. Love is mirrored through respect, compassion, kindness, generosity, acceptance, and forgiveness, and these are received by others as love. Love given and received renews and strengthens the circle of love.

In February we champion love on Valentine’s Day. Perhaps we could try to make each day a Valentine Day – ever widening ever deepening our circle of love, our loving relationships with all of creation, with the persons who are part of our lives and with our God who continually loves us into being.

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