



Doug's Reflection

02-15-26 THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Yesterday, lots of Valentines were signed with "XXX", symbolizing kisses from the sender; a custom that goes back to the early Christian era. Back then, writing an "X" meant the same thing as the mark of the cross, and conveyed the force of a sworn oath. "X" is also the first letter of the Greek word for Christ: "Xristos". In times when few could write, their "X" or signature cross was a legal signature. Contracts and agreements were often finalized by people kissing their mark after they made it. In a manner of speaking, Christians have "kissed the cross" for centuries. After all, the cross reaches out to embrace us, and God chose to make the cross a symbol of God's love. We should respond by figuratively "kissing the cross" in return. The cross itself is a form of Valentine greeting! And I can imagine God saying: "XXX" to you all.