

## **YES VIRGINIA, THERE REALLY WAS A SAINT VALENTOINE**

The first written record of Saint Valentine appeared in the *Nuremberg Chronicle*, (1493); alongside the woodcut portrait of Valentine the text states that he was a Roman priest martyred during the reign of Claudius II. He was arrested and imprisoned while being caught marrying Christian couples and otherwise aiding Christians who were at the time being persecuted by Claudius in Rome. Helping Christians at this time was considered crime. Claudius took a liking to this prisoner – until “Valentinus” tried to convert the Emperor -- whereupon this priest was condemned to death. He was beaten with clubs and stoned; when that didn't finish him, he was beheaded outside the Flaminian Gate. Various dates are given for the martyrdom or martyrdoms: 269, 270, or 273.