



Mattie4Sainthood.org

February 2019 Reflection

*"I have a song deep in my heart, and only I can hear it...
Everyone in the whole, wide world has their own special song"*

Mattie J.T. Stepanek

Valentine's Day 2019

Celebrating *Heartsongs* Remembering Mattie 1990 – 2004

Today, we remember and celebrate love in honor of a saint named Valentine – a Roman who lived during the 3rd century. He was known for sending handwritten notes of kindness to people in need of hope and peace. What is remarkable is that Valentine penned and sent these messages of the heart while he was imprisoned and condemned for his faith.

Today, we also have the opportunity to remember and reflect on a 20th century saint-in-the-making named Mattie – an American teen who lived his almost 14 years on earth celebrating life despite challenges related to a life-threatening disability. Mattie, like Valentine, cherished family and friends, and penned and shared poetry and messages of hope and peace, and shared these passages with his neighbors around the world.

Mattie called his messages *Heartsongs*, and he left us with seven books filled with his poetry and peace essays. In them, he reminds us to realize our *Heartsongs* – or our purpose in life, to celebrate that hope is real and peace is possible and life is worthy, and to joyfully *"Remember to play after every storm!"*

Mattie's life of purpose would not be overshadowed by his life of challenges from disability, chronic health problems, financial difficulties, bullying, or other obstacles. His messages, and his way of living, inspired by his deep connection with God, can be summed up with his last spoken word, *"Yes!"*

On this St. Valentine's Day, let us each pause and reflect on our *Heartsong* – our purpose from God – and share that with others. Let us choose kindness, and embrace hope, and practice peacemaking, and celebrate life and humanity. And, let us pray for Mattie's cause for sainthood.

Margaret Kolm
Director, Mattie's Guild

Heartsong

I have a song, deep in my heart,
And only I can hear it.
If I close my eyes and sit very still
It is so easy to listen to my song.
When my eyes are open and
I am so busy and moving and busy,
If I take time and listen very hard,
I can still hear my heart-song.
It makes me feel happy.
Happier than ever.
Happier than everywhere
And everything and everyone
In the whole wide world.
Happy like thinking about
Going to Heaven when I die.
My Heartsong sounds like this ---
 I love you! I love you!
 How happy you can be!
 How happy you can make
 This whole world be!

And sometimes it's other
Tunes and words, too,
But it always sings the
Same special feeling to me.
It makes me think of
Jamie, and Katie and Stevie,
And other wonderful things.
This is my special song.
But do you know what?
Everyone has a special song
Inside their hearts!
Everyone in the whole wide world
Has their own special Heartsong.
If you believe in magical, musical hearts,
And if you believe you can be happy,
Then you, too, will hear your song.

Mattie J.T. Stepanek
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The Mattie J.T. Stepanek Guild
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