

## Third Scrutiny

This weekend Sunday is the Feast of St. Patrick. On this day of the third scrutiny when we hear the story of new life from the resurrection in the story of Lazarus. I decided to share with you how new life was brought to the world through this Irish saint.

I hope the information on Catholic.org is accurate! St. Patrick was born in Roman Britain and when he was fourteen or so, he was captured by Irish pirates during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. At the time, Ireland was a land of Druids and pagans but Patrick turned to God and wrote his memoir, *The Confession*. In *The Confession*, he wrote:

"The love of God and his fear grew in me more and more, as did the faith, and my soul was rosed, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same. I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow or ice or rain."

Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain and was reunited with his family.

A few years after returning home, Patrick saw a vision he described in his memoir:

"I saw a man coming, as it were from Ireland. His name was Victoricus, and he carried many letters, and he gave me one of them. I read the heading: 'The Voice of the Irish.' As I began the letter, I imagined in that moment that I heard the voice of those very people who were near the wood of Foclut, which is beside the western sea-and they cried out, as with one voice: 'We appeal to you, holy servant boy, to come and walk among us.'"

The vision prompted his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained by St. Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre, whom he had studied under for years, and was later ordained a bishop and sent to take the Gospel to Ireland.

Patrick arrived in Slane, Ireland on March 25, 433. There are several legends about what happened next, with the most prominent claiming he met the chieftain of one of the druid tribes, who tried to kill him. After an intervention from God, Patrick was able to convert the chieftain and preach the Gospel throughout Ireland. There, he converted many people - eventually thousands - and he began building churches across the country.

He often used shamrocks to explain the Holy Trinity and entire kingdoms were eventually converted to Christianity after hearing Patrick's message.

Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in Confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died March 17, 461.

### **Third Scrutiny**

This is the story of St. Patrick. For our catechumen(s), their/his story will take a turn of faith with their/his upcoming baptism, confirmation and eucharist and the new life that come from these sacraments. For the rest of us, we need to ask: How has the resurrection been made known by my life? Am I aware of how I have been blessed by the sacraments I have received? The presence of Wayne/ Robert and Shalini leads us to ask: How will my life make the resurrection known in the future? What renewal has come to my life this Lent?

As we approach the Sacred Triduum, may we all remain open to the graces of this sacred season, so that we may truly celebrate these holy days renewed by the power of God's love. St. Patrick, pray for us.