

Everybody Likes St. Patrick's Day

BY THOMAS E. KISSLING
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SAIN'T PATRICK'S DAY, March 17 — Anniversary of the death of Ireland's beloved apostle continues to remain a day of universal homage to a great spiritual leader, while historians continue to debate the many legends concerning his life and work.

St. Patrick, according to the findings of most historians, was born about 389 A.D. and died about 461. The location of his birthplace remains uncertain, although immemorial Irish tradition places it in Britanny, France. He died in retirement in Saul, County Down, Ireland, according to his earliest biographer, Muirchu, nearly 1500 years ago.

THAT ST. PATRICK is still a man of mystery to historians is indicated by a survey of the findings of ten Patrician scholars whose works were consulted by the writer. Five agreed on the year 389 as his birthdate. Seven agreed on 461 as the year of his death.

The only date they all seem to agree on, as a definite fact, is the date 432, when St. Patrick arrived in Ireland from France to begin his greatest mission, the Christianization of the Irish people.

This momentous event was commemorated on its 1500th anniversary in 1932, by the International Eucharistic Congress, held in Dublin.

Unfortunately there is little definite information concerning St. Patrick's life except what he wrote himself, his "Confession" and "Epistle."

These two relatively short documents, according to one Irish scholar, James F. Kenney, former president of the American Catholic Historical Association, contain but "little biographical data, and were written in a Latin so poor that the meaning is repeatedly in doubt."

"The great bulk of Patrician sources consists of traditions first written down more than 200 years after his death and gradually elaborated through later centuries," says Mr. Kenney.

ST. PATRICK in his "Confession" says literally, "I had for my father, Calpornius, a deacon, who was from the town of Bonaven Taberniae, and he had near by a country place where I fell into capture." He was then 16 years old.

The locale of St. Patrick's birthplace remains in dispute, although the majority of scholars place it in Britanny, France. No Irish authority claims Ireland as the place of his nativity. Among the countries advancing a claim to the saint's birthplace are: England, Scotland, Wales, France, Italy, Belgium and Spain.

That difference of opinion regarding the saint in the field of hagiography, the study of saints lives, is equally matched in the field of iconography, the



Did Saint Have Beard?

Through the centuries of Church art, there have been thousands of portraits of Ireland's great St. Patrick. Above, stained glass windows bring out one point of historical controversy, did St. Patrick, or did he not, have a beard. Window at left, at the Shrine of St. Patrick, St. Patrick, Mo., shows him with flowing mustache and beard. The stained glass (photo right) at Sacred Heart Church, Notre Dame University, Ind., shows him without the beard. (NC Photos)

art of representation by pictures or images.

WHETHER ST. PATRICK wore a beard is one point of contention. Most "memorial churches in Ireland depicting a friend of his, as a young man with his beloved sheep, symbolizing his child-like humility.

Windows in some of the old monasteries of Ireland show the saint beardless, as does the chapel at Mansfield College, England, and a mosaic in the House of Parliament in Dublin.

A window in Sacred Heart Church, Notre Dame, Ind., designed by Carmelite nuns of Le Mans, France, pictures the saint as beardless. A window in the new Shrine of St. Patrick, Mo., however, depicts him with flowing beard and mustache.

The popular pictures and statues of St. Patrick which we see today are hopelessly wrong, according to Henry Morris, a noted archeologist, who asserts that the vestments ordinarily shown are nearly 400 years after his time. The mitre, which he usually is shown wearing, was not in common use until the 12th century.

Mr. Morris contended that the snakes depicted under St. Patrick's foot, never (sic) existed in Ireland, but the reptiles might possibly be viewed in an allegorical sense, and therefore be possible.

However, the tradition of the shamrock, used by St. Patrick to teach the lesson of the Holy Trinity, still remains unchallenged. The shamrock will be the symbol worn by Irishmen, sons of Irishmen and would-be Irishmen on St. Patrick's Day.

ALMS ARE ARMS

The Holy Father extends his arms to beg an alms for a poor corner of his world-wide flock in Hamassien, Eritrea. This parish is truly a "Company" of Christ's spiritual army, seeking to advance the front line of His Kingdom in Africa. But daily these poor people as their dilapidated, old Chapel crumbling before their eyes, so endangering their lives the local authorities have condemned it. Recently robbers invaded it, stole sacred vessels and vestments and further damaged the building. Won't you help us raise \$2,000 to build a new Chapel? Your alms will really become spiritual arms for Christ's army. It will give these humble soldiers new heart and new spirit to carry on. Thank God with your gift that He hasn't required of you the same sacrifice for your faith.

REMEMBER OUR MISSIONARIES WITH YOUR MASS OFFERINGS.

FATHER KING IS YOUR MAN
Because he is the Holy Father's man to dispense the charity of the Church to almost 800,000 Arabs of all faiths who have been exiled from Israel since 1948. He arranges schooling for children; gives clothes, shelter, food and many other emergency needs. He begs your help to continue the work. For each ten dollar gift he thanks you with AN OLIVE WOOD ROSARY FROM THE HOLY LAND.

BLESSED SAINT JOSEPH
Won't you honor the good Saint's Feast Day, (March 19) by helping his poor namesake in Lebanon, a lad who has four years more to prepare for the priesthood. We need \$100 each year to keep and train him. You may send it in any payments. What a joy to have part in his future apostolate, and to gladden Saint Joseph!

NO PATRICK
Not only St. Joseph, but we feast also St. Cyril of Jerusalem this week (March 18)—and who could forget St. Patrick! That reminds us—we have two needy novices, SISTER MARY JOSEPH in India and SISTER MARY CYRIL in Lebanon; but no Sister Patrick. Anyway we plead for a friend to "sponsor" one of these by sending \$150 needed each year during her two year training. Their families are unable to help. Won't you, by sending this yearly sum in any convenient payments?

EASTER GIFTS?
Don't bother to leave the house. Our NEW EASTER GIFT CARD together with the PRESSED FLOWERS FROM THE HOLY LAND is the perfect answer. We send it anywhere for you to say your remembered friend or relative with a spiritual gift—a Mass, or an enrollment, or a gift to a Mission Chapel in their name. Write for particulars.

AND WHAT ABOUT YOURSELF?
How many times throughout the year you arrange Masses for your own beloved departed and for deceased friends? What about your own soul? Will someone remember you? You can arrange with us NOW for Masses for yourself when others may forget. Write us for details about the SUSPENSE CARD.

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St. Patrick's In The Orient

Holding tightly to St. Patrick is this child in an Oriental orphanage conducted by the Maryknoll Sisters. On St. Patrick's Day, we children all over the world will don St. Paddy's green, and recall the Apostle of Ireland, thanks to the work of missionaries in all parts of the world. (Maryknoll-NC Photos)

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From The Cross

...from page 13

...the Good Thief argues, the justice of God to the heart of the Good Thief. He would abuse an... "Woe is mine, woe is mine, woe is mine!"

...the thieves are facing death, they are about to fall into the hands of God. This is not the hour, therefore, to offend God, by cruel abuse of the blameless Christ, their partner in suffering and co-sharer in the death of the cross.

...Thus does the Good Thief argue in a vain attempt to save his soul from the hands of God's justice.

...The Good Thief is a model of the true penitent. He admits his sin and his crimes. He accepts his punishment. He blames nobody but himself.

...His is the only voice raised in Calvary—in defense of Christ. "This man has done no wrong," he insists.

FAITH AND repentance have worked a miracle in the heart of the Good Thief. Hope, too, is born in his soul. He turns to look at the silent Christ on the next cross.

...The story of Christ was not unknown to the penitent Thief. He had heard about the Messiah, that He was the Messiah, that He was a King.

...Here on Calvary the Good Thief had listened to the rabble mock and insult the crucified Jesus. "If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross!" "If thou be the King of Israel, save thyself!"

...So far, Christ's only word from the cross had been a prayer for His enemies. "Father, forgive them. This man has done no wrong."

...Now HIS great moment of grace has come. "Christ, the King!" Yes, the penitent Thief sees the truth. Only a divine King, like Christ, could forgive His persecutors, could pray for His enemies.

...And if this King on the next cross could forgive His enemies, would He not also forgive a nameless outlaw who was sorry? There is still time to speak to Christ and hope inspires the Thief to prayer.

... "Lord, remember me!" The Good Thief struggles to speak through his parched lips. "Lord," he asks, "remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom."

...This prayer is a supreme act of faith. It openly recognizes Christ as the Messiah, as the Saviour. As a Jew, the Good Thief believed that the Messiah would found a kingdom. And Christ, this Man dying next to him on a cross, the Good Thief proclaims, is the Saviour who will reign in the new kingdom.

... "Lord, remember me!" The Good Thief's prayer opens the merciful heart of Christ. He turns His eyes toward the penitent outcast.

... "Amen I say to thee..." Christ speaks to the Good

...Thief solemnly, with dignity, authority and gentleness. "This day thou shalt be with me in paradise."

...How wonderful is this pledge of Christ to the Thief! Here once, again the divine personality of Jesus flashes forth, this time from the cross, even as He revealed His divinity to His apostles on Thabor.

...Though dying and nailed to a cross, Christ's boundless love breaks forth to console the Good Thief. With the same divine authority that He forgave Magdalene and the adulterous woman, Christ promises pardon and paradise to the penitent Thief.

... * * *

TODAY — What promptitude! Immediately the penitent Thief is admitted to Christ's Kingdom. Immediately the Thief is pardoned. At once Christ's love and the pledge of eternal life are given to him.

... "Thou shalt be with me" — What noble company for an outcast Thief dying on a cross! Even in death, Jesus — the Thief is pardoned. At once Christ's love and the pledge of eternal life are given to him.

... "In paradise" — What a reward! The Good Thief asks only for hope, only for remembrance in Christ's future Kingdom. Christ promises him more. This very day the Good Thief will go with Christ into paradise where the souls of the just, the souls of the saints are waiting for the Redeemer to come and lead them into Heaven.

... Even now on the cross paradise and eternal life have come to the Good Thief. He is dying with Christ as his friend. "To be with Jesus in a glorious paradise." And "where Christ is, there is life, there is the Kingdom!"

... * * *

ONCE AGAIN the love of God speaks from the cross in the words of Jesus to the Good Thief. Christ's first words from the cross — His prayer for His enemies — revealed God's love for the unlovable.

... Christ's second words from the cross — His pledge of paradise to the penitent Thief — reveal God's love for sinners.

... God's love always gives the penitent sinner more than he asks.

Statesman Joins Religious Order

Bogota, Colombia — (RNS) — Dr. Luis Ignacio Andrade, several times minister of state and former ambassador to the Vatican, has abandoned political activities to become a monk.

The 52-year-old political leader, who recently became a widower, joined the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, generally known as the Claretian Fathers.

A fiery political speaker, Dr. Andrade has been front page news in Colombia's press for several decades.

American Named Bishop In Korea

Vatican City — (NC) — Father Harold W. Henry, Apostolic Prefect of Kwangju, has been named Titular Bishop of Cordoba by Pope Pius XII.

The 47-year-old Columbian Father from Northfield, Minn., will remain as head of the Kwangju see, which has been raised to the rank of a Vicariate Apostolic. He is the first American-born Columbian Father to be named a bishop.

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