

Benediction and sermon  
this evening in the  
Church, 7:00 and 7:30.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
March 16, 1938

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"Do What Saint Patrick Did."

TIME: Tonight directly after nightprayer.  
PLACE: The Prefect of Religion's office.  
CHARACTERS: Adolph, Pat, The Weasel, and  
the Prefect of Religion.

(The prefect's door is slightly ajar. Father is at his desk trying to read the life of St. Patrick, but frantic applause from the radio next door is distracting him. As he lifts his eyes and looks toward the door, a boy sticks his head in).

FATHER: Come in, Adolph. Who's with you?

ADOLPH: Oh, just Pat, Father. We've been arguing upstairs again.

FATHER: Happy feast day tomorrow, Pat.

PAT: Same to you, Father, and to all fighting Irishmen. (He looks with disdain at Adolph).

(All seat themselves. Father throws a package of cigarettes into Adolph's lap).

ADOLPH: (returning the smokes to the desk) Thanks, Father. (He sits down again). Here it is in a nutshell. He says St. Patrick always was an Irishman and I say he wasn't. I say St. Boniface did as much for the Church as St. Patrick did, and he says he didn't.

FATHER: (with the wisdom of Solomon) Well, I say you're both wrong. Though Patrick wasn't born in Ireland, he lived and died an Irishman and loved it. Comparing the saints is a waste of time. And, as to hoping that Patrick was not born in Britain, that's small potatoes. Patrick, Boniface, all the saints belong to God and the world. Their chief concern was not local pride but putting divine life in the hearts of men.

ADOLPH: Sure, Father, I agree that St. Patrick was a marvelous missionary. But isn't it true that an awful lot about him is legend and not strict fact?

FATHER: Oh, I don't know. I think there's a good deal of fact. He was born about 385 probably in Roman Britain. Captured by heath pirates from Ireland when only a youth, he was made to tend sheep at Sliev-Mis till he made his escape. In captivity he had learned the language and ways of his masters and yearned for the day when he might introduce Christ

PRAYERS: (deceased) father of Clark Reynolds (Alumni); Jas. F. Hallinan, friend of J. Reynolds (Dil). Ill, (accident) Hugh McCauley '33. Six special intentions.

to their hearts. About 432 he realized his dream, succeeding Palladius as the Bishop of Ireland. At first the pagan druids were hostile, but by the close of his life in 461 Patrick had baptized thousands. (Father opens his Life of St. Patrick and reads for a moment):

Many peoples are born again to God through me and afterwards confirmed. Clergy are everywhere ordained for them. And the sons of the Irish and the daughters of their princes who have become monks and virgins of Christ I am unable to number.

(Shutting the book, he looks the boys straight in the eye) If you quibbled less about where he was born and how he compares with the other saints; if only you would try to do what Patrick did, this would be a great little world to live in.

ADOLPH: You know, Father, a thought just struck me. (Pat looks over Adolph's way) Why don't they name the next dormitory at Notre Dame St. Patrick's Hall. I'm surprised they've slipped up on this so long.

(Just then the buzzer rings twice. Some one is waiting outside for confession. The boys rise together about to leave)

FATHER: (toward the chapel, quite loudly) Just a minute. (Then, to the boys) Well, just one more second; I don't want to give you the wrong idea. Granting St. Patrick was primarily a zealous bishop, he did, besides, love with predilection the children of his labors and the Irish in turn have every right to love him with a special love. He put divine life in their hearts.

(Without knocking, The Weasel hastily enters)

THE WEASEL: (surveying Adolph and Pat) Here you are. (turning to Father) I've been all over for them. We're going to the Bengal prelims again tonight.

PAT: (to Father). It's my Irish faith, Father. Loan me a dime for the bouts?