

Daily Devotion For March 17, 2023

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)

Today is St. Patrick's Day. Who was St. Patrick and why do we remember his life? Is it because he liked corned beef and cabbage? I think not. At age 16 he was kidnapped and taken to a land he did not know - Ireland. Patrick could have been angry, despondent and eventually given in to defeat; but Patrick did not do this. He became an overcomer as he persevered in his trials and tribulations.

He was taken and told to tend the sheep. It was there that he prayed, grew in his faith, and walked in love. What do we do when we find ourselves in captivity? We can stay in it or choose the latter. We can be bitter or become better.

The history of St. Patrick goes on to tell us that he did get away on a ship to return once again to his homeland, but he was different then. He had found Christ in Ireland through his prayers. Later, he heard the voice of God to return to the very place of evil where he was held captive. Patrick went on to become a Bishop. While he was living in Ireland he taught about the Trinity by using the three-leaf clover.

Thought For Today: Not everyone is called to be a missionary in a foreign land, but we are all called to be witnesses and to evangelize. The Lord puts people in our paths every day if we are looking, or we can pray and ask Him to place someone in our sphere of influence.

St. Patrick ministered in Ireland for 29 years, baptized over 100,000 people and built 300 churches. We too are called to be world changers by ministering to others. Who can you minister to today?

Today's Prayer Focus: Who will you pray for today that they will come to know the love of Christ? Deo Volente.