

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

I think we need another Saint Patrick for New York and Ireland and all the world. Certainly God's work is being done around the world by Catholic bishops, priests and lay people, and other Christians as well, but we need someone like Patrick to really wake up the faith of many people who have perhaps lost some of the fervor of the faith. Many of us accept the ways of the world even when those ways go against the Gospel.

I am most assuredly not encouraging inciting riots or bullying people or hating those who are different. God forbid! I am praying that bishops, priests and lay people can inspire others by their devotion and example. Most assuredly, that is what Saint Patrick did in the fifth century with tremendous success.

You may recall, Patrick was taken to Ireland as a slave. He endured great hardship for a number of years before he managed to escape back to Britain. After some time, he felt the call to the Priesthood and eventually was ordained and returned to Ireland to serve the people as a bishop. His true desire was to bring them to the Lord through baptism.

When Patrick returned to Ireland, it is firmly held that he began his ministry (around 441 A.D.) with a forty day fast on Croagh Patrick, a tall mountain in County Mayo. (If it sounds biblical, that's what St. Patrick intended.) After that, Patrick personally converted and baptized many people all over Ireland. He was tireless in doing the Lord's work.

Again I say, in our time, we need people like Patrick to inspire others to recognize the need for God's grace and the beauty of the Catholic faith.

During this Lent and on St. Patrick's feast let us pray for the help from God to turn away from sin and believe more fully in the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. That is truly what celebrating St. Patrick's memory should be about. Anything else is secondary.

Next week, after Sunday morning Masses on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, enjoy some refreshments and give thanks for the faith-filled example of the Patron Saint of Ireland and the Archdiocese of New York. And, of course, this great Parish also!

St. Patrick, pray for us.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monsignor Giandurco". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.