

Fourth Week of Lent, Friday
St. Patrick, Memorial
17 March 2023

If it's one thing the saints give to us,
it's perspective.

What a great word, "perspective."
It comes from Latin...
meaning "to look through."

So we can look through the life of a saint and gain some perspective,
some vision, some insight, and even some inspiration.

And that is certainly true of St. Patrick today.

Even the current Archbishop of Armagh,
the place, in Ireland, where Patrick established the Catholic Church...
the current Archbishop, Eamon Martin,
in an interview yesterday said that St. Patrick
is a modern saint, a saint for everybody.

As a teenager, Patrick was taken from his home in Britain,
he was displaced, disrupted
and taken to the land of Ireland and was pushed into
forced labor.

The Archbishop went on to say... this continues in our modern times...
we call it human trafficking,
which implies displacing people, disrupting their lives
and forcing them into some sort of slavery
on any sort of level.

Because of this Patrick emerged from his teen years
and into his twenties and thirties...
helping people who were displaced and disrupted.
That was his perspective on life.

He eventually found that people were displaced from God.
He found that people had a rupture in their faith lives...

who were either misled by false teachings,
who were aimlessly giving over to other false faiths,
like those of the Druids,
who were enslaved by seeking other gods.

St. Patrick stepped into their lives and brought them another perspective,
the perspective of Catholicism...
brought them to the Tradition of our wisdom,
the value of Sacred Scripture
and brought them to encounter the presence of Christ
through our Sacramental Spirituality.

Patrick gave those disrupted and displaced this perspective...
it changed an entire country...
it made him a saint.

Patrick, in his time and day and age, stood in the person of Jesus
and did what Jesus did
from the Gospel we hear today...
A scribe wanted perspective... he wanted insight...
Jesus gave it to him...
Love God above everything else...
carry that through ... above family, spouse, brother, sister, friend,
and whatever else we give our time to.
Love God above everything else... that's first and foremost
Second, love your neighbor as yourself.
That's a perspective... whatever you hate,
whatever causes you to lose patience,
to slack off in virtue... make sure you're not passing
that on to anyone else.
Love your neighbor as yourself.

May we gain perspective today... look through St. Patrick...
look through Jesus Himself in this Eucharist
and find insight and inspiration
for our Lenten retreat day today.
It's a perspective that Christianized a whole country
and made both men and women into saints.