



Faith Filled People

March

Saint Patrick

Born around 389 C.E., Patrick lived in Britain. His father was a Roman soldier stationed in Britain. One day when Patrick was sixteen years old, Irish pirates kidnapped him. They took him to Ireland where they made him a slave. His job was to take care of sheep in the mountains. It was cold and rainy, but he took good care of the animals. Patrick really wanted to go home. He prayed to God asking for help. Finally he escaped and found some sailors to take him home.

He studied to become a priest. The Church wanted to send someone to Ireland to help the Irish know Jesus. Patrick wanted to go. He knew the people in Ireland believed in many gods and not the one true God. He helped many people change their mind. They stopped believing in pagan gods. They put their faith in Jesus. Not everyone agreed with Patrick. Some people wanted to get rid of him. He kept on telling them about Jesus anyway.

Legend tells us that Patrick explained the Trinity using a three-leaf shamrock. He wanted the new believers to understand that God was Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To show that God could be all three at the same time, he pointed to the three connected parts of one leaf. Legend also tells us that Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland. This may not be true, but it is true that Ireland doesn't have any snakes!

Even before Patrick's day, the Church sent people all over the world to tell them about Jesus. The church still sends people out. They are called missionaries. We can be missionaries, too, when we tell someone about God's love.