

**Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Home & Rehabilitation
Center**

C'est la Vie Apartments

News - Notes ~ March 2010



Happy St. Patrick's Day

Whether you are Irish or not, March 17th seems to bring out a wee bit of the Irish spirit in many of us. Saint Patrick was a Romano-Briton born around 385 in Scotland. His parents were Calpornius and Conchessa, who were Romans living in Britian in charge of the colonies.

As a boy of fourteen, he was captured during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. At that time, Ireland was a land of Druids and pagans. During his captivity, he learned the language and practices of the people and he turned to God in prayer. Of this time period, he wrote: *"The love of God grew in me more and more.... In a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same.... I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow or ice or rain."*

Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. Arriving at the coast, he found some sailors who took him back to Britain, where he was reunited with his family.

Later he had another dream in which the people of Ireland were calling out to him: *"We beg you, holy youth, to come and walk among us once more."* Following this dream, he began his studies for the priesthood and was ordained a priest. Later he was consecrated a bishop and was sent to bring the Gospel to Ireland. He arrived in Ireland on March 25, 433 and began preaching the Gospel throughout the land, converting many of the people.

During his forty years in Ireland, he worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in his *"Confessions."* After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering, he died March 17, 461 at Saul where he had built the first Catholic Church in Ireland.



Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated in Ireland as a church solemnity and national holiday. Outside of Ireland, it is a time to celebrate the special wonders of this beautiful country far beyond its borders.

On **March 17th** at Prompt Succor Nursing Home, we will have a special celebration at **2:00 PM** - please come and join us and show your Irish spirit by wearing a bit of green!

A Bit of Ireland at PSNH

The luck of the Irish is a phrase that has multiple meanings because there is little agreement on its origins. Some suggest it simply means that the Irish are inherently lucky and seem to be able to land on their feet when bad circumstances occur. Others trace the origin of the phrase to the United States during the exploration for gold in the West. There was a large number of Irish people who got lucky and found their “pot of gold” in the mountains of California.



However, we are more than lucky; we are indeed very blessed because we have four Marianites originally from Ireland at Prompt Succor!

Sr. Joan Barry, MSC was born in County Cork, Ireland on October 24, 1928. Her parents were Julia and Richard Barry and she had 3 older brothers and 3 younger sisters. In 1946, she felt a desire to become a religious and she visited with a Marianite Sister from Louisiana. The Sister told her **“If you plan to come to Holy Cross, you must be willing to stand with Mary at the foot of the Cross.”** At that instant, she said to herself: “This is what I want!” Sr. Joan taught elementary school for many years in Louisiana and now ministers with us in pastoral care and she remains ever faithful to standing with Mary at the foot of the Cross.

Sr. Kathleen Farrell, MSC was born to Ellen Rourke and Roger Farrell in Cloverhill, County Roscommon in 1930. There were ten children in the family, two boys and eight girls. In 1946, she entered the Marianites in Precigné, France and worked in health care for several years. In 1952, she came to Louisiana and taught elementary school until 1985 when she was sent to Chile and a life-long dream of working with orphans was fulfilled. She now lives at Prompt Succor Convent and shares her many gifts of care-giving with our Sisters who are residents in the nursing home.

Sr. Mary Murray, MSC was born in County Cork, Ireland on Mary 30, 1929 to Mary Collins and James Murray. There were ten children in the family; and eight survived into adulthood. Sr. Mary was in the middle of four girls and four boys. After entering the Marianites, she taught in elementary schools for thirty years. Upon leaving the classroom, she was trained in parish ministry and then served as pastoral associate in Pine Prairie. Several years ago, she joined the pastoral care staff at Prompt Succor. A belief that guides her life: *“Let me be present to the moment and then get out of the way, so God can run with it!”*

Sr. Bridget Phelan, MSC was born November 14, 1913 in County Tipperary to Mary Fitzgerald and John Phelan. They had one son and five daughters. After becoming a religious, she taught elementary and Jr High grades for many years. While she loved all her students, her favorite class was sixth grade. Regarding her approach to life and ministry, she believed

it was important:

“to get better, to bring a visible improvement to my life and my teaching each year!” One of the parents remarked of her teaching: “She is a Rembrandt of a teacher!” We are graced to have Sr. Bridget as a resident in the nursing home where her wit and wisdom continue to inspire us. So much more than lucky, how very blessed we are with our “Bit of Ireland” at Prompt Succor! Thank you, St. Patrick!

Prayer of St. Patrick

I arise today through God’s strength to pilot me; God’s might to uphold me; God’s wisdom to guide me; God’s eye to see before me; God’s ear to hear me; God’s word to speak for me; God’s hand to guard me; God’s way to lie before me; God’s shield to protect me against anyone who shall wish me ill, afar and near, alone and in a crowd.

Christ be with me; Christ before me; Christ behind me; Christ in me; Christ beneath me; Christ above me; Christ on my right; Christ on my left; Christ where I lie down; Christ where I sit; Christ where I arise. Christ be in the heart of every one who thinks of me; Christ in the mouth of every one who speaks of me; Christ in every eye that sees me; Christ in every ear that hears me.

Salvation is of the Lord.

Salvation is of the Lord.

Salvation is of the Christ.

May your salvation, O Lord, be ever with us.



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**A Ministry of the
Marianites of Holy Cross**

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