

Well then, where shall Coroticus, with his iniquitous followers (rebels against Christ), where will they see themselves, they who distribute baptized young women as booty—and that for a miserable temporal kingdom, which truly passes away in a moment like a cloud or like smoke which is dispersed by the wind? So shall the deceitful wicked perish at the presence of the Lord; but the just shall feast in great constancy with Christ.

I beseech you earnestly that whichever servant of God be ready that he be the bearer of this letter, so that on no account it be suppressed by anyone, but much rather be read in the presence of all the people, yea, in the presence of Coroticus himself.

If it so be, may God inspire them sometime to amend their lives for God, so that even though late, they may repent their impious deeds (murderers of the brethren of the Lord), and may liberate the baptized women captives whom they had taken, so that they may deserve to live to God, and be made whole, here and in eternity.

Peace to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.



THE MEANING OF THE CELTIC CROSS

The Celtic cross can be linked to the 7th century when these crosses were erected by Irish missionaries in Ireland. You can find these crosses standing free in churchyards in Ireland and now in many of the churches in the UK also. The Celtic crosses can be termed as ringed crosses because of their design. Celtic-cross is extensively used as a symbol of Christianity but the history of this symbol can be dated back beyond the existence of Christianity. The four arms in the cross signify the four elements namely earth, water, air and fire; the four directions east, west, north, south and the essential four parts of a human body. Mind, heart, body and soul.

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STRENGTH OF SAINT PATRICK



..." I, Patrick, have been established a bishop in Ireland.

*I believe that I have received from God what I am" ...
from " Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus"
written in 452 by St. Patrick himself*

STRENGTH OF SAINT PATRICK

from *The Legacy of St. Patrick*

by Martin P. Harney, S.J.

Two documents written by St. Patrick, himself, are in existence. They both indicate his humility and his fearlessness in admonishing and correcting those who defy God's laws. The excerpts below are taken from the "Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus," (written in 452) who had captured, killed, and sold new Christians into pagan slavery. + + +

I, Patrick, the sinner, unlearned as everyone knows, avow that I have been established a bishop in Ireland. Most assuredly, I believe that I have received from God what I am. And so, I dwell in the midst of barbarous heathens, a stranger and an exile for the love of God.

He is witness that this is so. Not that I desired to utter from my mouth anything so harshly and so roughly; but I am compelled, roused as I am by zeal for God and for the truth of Christ; and by love for my nearest friends and sons, for whom I have given up my fatherland and parents, yea, and my life to the point of death. I have vowed to my God to teach the heathens if I am worthy, though I be despised by some.

CITIZENS OF DEMONS

With my own hand, I have written and composed these words to be given and delivered to the soldiers of Coroticus; I do not say to my fellow-citizens, or to the fellow citizens of the holy Romans, but to those who are *the fellow citizens of the demons, because of their evil works.*

Behaving like enemies, they are dead while they live, allies of the Scots and the apostate Picts, as though wishing to gorge themselves with the blood of innocent Christians, whom I, in countless numbers, have begotten to God and confirmed in Christ.

NEWLY BAPTIZED

On the day following that on which the newly-baptized, vested in white garments, were anointed with chrism—it was still fragrant on their foreheads while they were cruelly butchered and slaughtered with the sword by the above-mentioned marauders—I sent a letter with a holy priest, whom I taught from his infancy, along with other clerics, to request that they would

allow us some of the booty, or of the baptized captives whom they had taken. They jeered at them.

Therefore, I know not whom I should mourn more—whether those who are slain, or those whom they captured, or those whom the devil grievously ensnared. In everlasting punishment they will become slaves of hell along with the devil; whosoever commits sin is a slave and son of the devil.

Did I come to Ireland without God, or according to the flesh? No. Who compelled me (I am bound by the Spirit) not to see any of my kinsfolk? Is it from me that I show godly compassion towards that nation who once took me captive and harried the menservants and the maidservants of my father's house? I was freeborn according to the flesh. I am born of a father who was a Decurion. But I sold my nobility, I blush not to state it, nor am I sorry, *for the profit of others.* In short, I am a slave in Christ to a foreign nation on account of the unspeakable *glory of the eternal life* which is in Christ Jesus, Our Lord.

Around me are His sheep, torn to pieces and spoiled by robbers on the orders of Coroticus, with hostile intent. Raving wolves have swallowed up the flock of the Lord, which in Ireland was growing up excellently with the greatest care.

Which of the saints would not shudder to jest or to enjoy a feast with such men? They have filled their houses with the spoil of dead Christians. They live by plunder. Wretched men, they know not that it is deadly poison which they offer as food to their friends and sons; just as Eve did not understand that it was death that she handed to her husband. So are all those who do wrong. They earn death eternal as their punishment.

The custom of the Roman Christian Gauls is this: they send holy and able men to the Franks and other heathens, with many thousands of *solidi* to redeem baptized captives. But you, so often, slay them, or sell them to a foreign nation that knows not God. You deliver the members of Christ, as it were, into a brothel.

What manner of hope in God have you, or whosoever agrees with you, or who converses with you in words of flattery? God will judge; for it is written: "Not only those who do evil, but those who consents with them, shall be damned."