



DEAD THEOLOGIAN SOCIETY

Saints of Yesterday Inspiring Youth Today

March / April 2014

"Truly, truly I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life."

John 6: 47-48



From the National Office

Hello Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the members of our DTS Ministry Support Team whose generousities truly make them Partners in the DTS Apostolate. We're literally building a team of support of 60 people – a virtual "Rosary of Support" representing the beads on the Rosary and the Crucifix. These generous folks, by their prayers and the sharing of their financial blessings are allowing the DTS apostolate to be driven by VISION as opposed to being driven and too often limited by budget. There are many souls that are being won for Jesus Christ and many more that can be won – and WILL be won!

I know many of you, if your situation allowed it, would be right there in the trenches with me and the other DTS

Chapter Leaders as we faithfully try to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and help build communities of faith among the young people in parishes across the United States, Ireland and other places around the world. I assure you, your partnership in this holy endeavor puts you right there with us and I am eternally grateful for your support and encouragement. It is a true privilege to share with you the fruits of your mission apostolate.

The great St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) said:

"Almsgiving proceeds from a merciful heart and is more useful for the one who practices it than for the one who receives it, for the man who makes a practice of almsgiving draws out a spiritual profit from his acts, whilst those who receive his alms receive only a temporal benefit."

May all of you are so generous to DTS be abundantly blessed and always know how grateful we are for your help in leading souls to Heaven!

Welcome Our Newest Chapter

- **St. Mary Church**
Oregon, IL
Diocese of Rockford

— Eddie Cotter
Founder/Director



Alive in Christ — Kevin Sullivan

I was born and raised Catholic, attended Catholic schools, and never missed Mass growing up. I would pray when it was convenient or when I would want something from God. I had all the outward appearances of being Catholic but did not really have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. This seemed to be the norm with most of my peers. In the academic year of 2003-2004, the Chippewa Deanery in the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin, began a Dead Theologians Society chapter and it was hosted by founder and director Eddie Cotter at a parish about a mile from my house. It still took a few months and a lot of encouraging from my now “hooded” friends before I decided to try DTS. As a senior in high school, I still remember being fascinated by the environment! DTS became a solid venue to ask questions and learn about our rich faith that I looked forward to every Sunday night. I was also amazed at

how all the teens I was with really strived to put our faith in action during the week.

DTS was responsible for me beginning to live my faith. A few years later I was

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working on my Religious Studies degree and for a project I had to map out an “ideal catechetical plan” for a fictional Parish. I, of course, included a DTS chapter as an optional youth ministry event in this project. Now in my second year as Director of Religious Education at a parish in the Diocese of Madison (WI), I help facilitate a new chapter. I still wear my original DTS hoodie from 10 years ago and enjoy the opportunity to be available to teens and help show them that a personal relationship with God is possible through Jesus Christ. I always remember this

fact when preparing Saint Profiles and I make sure to highlight how we are all called to holiness. DTS provided models for me when I was in High School and I am happy to be able to offer the same experience to the teens I work with today!

— Kevin Sullivan – age 27
Madison, Wisconsin, USA



Profile in Heroic Virtue

St. Patrick — Bishop

Patriarch of the Irish Race

Born: 389

Died: 461

Feast Day: March 17



Saint Patrick was born in 389 in Christianized Roman Britain in a village that is most likely part of present day Scotland. This was the extreme northwest of the crumbling Roman Empire. Patrick was from a fairly wealthy and influential family. His father, Calpornius was a civil magistrate, tax collector and deacon. His mother was possibly a niece of St. Martin of Tours. Patrick's grandfather Potius was a priest.

A major tragedy occurred in Patrick's life when he was only 16. As Rome's army lost strength it backed out of Britain, leaving it wide open to raiders. Young Patrick was kidnapped by Irish raiders, taken to Ireland and sold as a slave. He was made to shepherd the flocks of his slave owner day in and day out. It was during this time of intense isolation that this teenager reflected on his young life, and how he had up to that point, turned his back on God, and failed to keep God's commandments.

Patrick began to devote most of his time to prayer and it was during this time that he discovered his Anam Cara which is Irish for *'Friend of the Soul.'* His Anam Cara was indeed the Holy Spirit. In Patrick's own words; ***“But after I had come to Ireland, it was then that I was made to shepherd the flocks day after day, and, as I did so, I would pray all the time, right through the day. More and more the love of God and fear of Him grew strong within me, and as my faith grew, so the Spirit became more and more active, so that in a single day I would say as many as a hundred prayers, and at night only slightly less. In snow, in frost, in rain, I would hardly notice any discomfort, and I was never slack but always full of energy. It is clear to me now, that this was due to the fervor of the Spirit within me.”***

Patrick eventually escaped from Ireland and was briefly reunited with his family. In his dreams he had a vision of a man named Victoricus who seemed to come from Ireland. Victoricus carried countless letters and he handed a specific one to Patrick which began; “The Voice of the

Irish.” As Patrick read the letter he could hear the voice of the Irish saying to him, *“Holy boy, we beg you, come back and walk once more among us.”*

In obedience to God, Patrick left home and went to Gaul where he became a priest and then a bishop. The Church gave him the mission of building up the kingdom of God in Ireland. Now at the age of 40, Patrick returned to the land of his captivity. He spent the next thirty years of his life converting the Irish race to the True Faith. From his years as a slave he had learned their language and their customs. His mission was a dangerous one but Patrick fearlessly confronted and defeated druid priests in “spiritual showdowns” with the strength and truth of Jesus Christ. He tirelessly preached the Gospel throughout Ireland and baptized thousands. Patrick ordained a native Irish clergy. Sons and daughters of Irish kings became monks and virgins of Christ.



Saint Patrick left a legacy of Christianity that shaped the Irish nation. He brought to the Irish a love for the True Faith and made the Irish a holy Catholic race that for centuries to come would endure every hardship imaginable to keep this faith. Through it all Patrick remained humble, giving all the credit to God whom he so dearly loved. This love and gratitude to God and his love for Ireland are beautifully expressed as he writes, *“...if I should be worthy, I am ready to give even my life in Ireland without hesitation; and most willingly for His name. And I choose to devote it to Him even unto death, if God grant it to me. I am greatly in debt to God.”*

Saint Patrick died on March 17 in the year 461. He is the Patriarch of the Irish race.

St. Patrick — Bishop