

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Desert Hills Lutheran,

It is St. Patrick's Day. I've no Irish in me, but I thought I'd start with a story.

An Irish priest was transferred to Texas. Father O'Malley rose from his bed one morning. It was a fine spring day in his new west Texas parish. He walked to the window of his bedroom to take a deep breath of the beautiful day outside. He then noticed there was a donkey lying dead in the middle of his front lawn. He promptly called the local police station. The conversation went like this:

"Good morning. This is Sergeant Jones. How might I help you?"

"And the best of the day te yerself. This is Father O'Malley at St. Ann's Catholic Church. There's a jackass lying dead in me front lawn and would ye be so kind as to send a couple o'yer lads to take care of the matter?" Sergeant Jones, considering himself to be quite a wit and recognizing the foreign accent, thought he would have a little fun with the good father, replied, "Well, now, Father, it was always my impression that you people took care of the last rites!"

There was dead silence on the line for a few moments... Father O'Malley then replied: "Aye, 'tis certainly true, but we are also obligated to notify the next of kin first, which is the reason for me call."

My devotion verse for today is Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before people, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Good works are lights in the world. We are to be like candles in a dark room. Have you noticed that the rioters almost always are out at night, doing their work of chaos? We are to be lights that people see, that we are doing good things. In times of darkness, all good and kind and loving acts shine a light. We never become so flashlight-like that; we don't need to be reminded to let our lights shine. And when we fail and we do, we must repent, ask forgiveness, and begin again.

Have a wonderful St. Patrick's Day.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin