CONFESSIO of STPATRICK (Texts selected by EGO, PATRICIUS PECCATOR, RUSTICISSIMUS ET MINIMUS
OMNIUM FIDELIUM ET CONTEMPTIBILIS SUM APUD PLURIMOS.

I am Patrick, a sinner, most unlearned, the least of all the faithful and despised by many. My father was Calpornius of the village. Bannavem Taburniae. There I was taken captive... I was then about sixteen years of age. I did not know the true God, but in captivity in Ireland the love of God came to me... The love of God came to me... Every day I had to tend sheep; I prayed through snow, through frost, through rain. The spirit within me was fervent.

One night I heard in my sleep a voice -

'It is well that you fast - soon you will go to your own country. See, your ship is ready'

I left the man with whom I had stayed for six years. In the strength of God, I came to that ship. We set sail... after three days we reached land. After travelling through deserted country for a few years, I was in Britain again with my people. And there I saw in the night the vision of a man, Victoricus, coming as it were from Ireland with letters. He gave me one of them and I read the opening words:

*The voice of the Irish - VOX HYBERIONACUM ' . I thought I heard their voice, crying out with one mouth - "We ask thee, boy, come and walk among us once more' .

I awoke full of joy and went to Ireland, not of my own accord, but by the gift - so great, so salutary - the gift to know God, to love him. I have now lived among you in faith and sincerity of heart. I am very much God's debtor, who gave me such grace that many people were reborn in God through me.

Christ was poor for our sakes. I have no wealth; daily I expect murder, fraud, captivity; but I fear none of these things, because of the promise of heaven.

So now I commend my soul to my most faithful God....

ECCE NUNC COMMENDO ANIMAN MEAM FIDELISSIMO DEO MEO....

This is my confession before I die..

ET HAEC EST CONFESSIO MEA ANTEQUAM MORIAR....







