



smyrna, Tennessee

St. Patrick's

Anglican Church

An Ancient Faith for Modern Times

Letters from the Wilderness

#13

Dear Saints and Shamrocks,

Like you, I receive all kinds of jokes and rumors and corny stories in my email on a regular basis. I especially don't like the ones that are made to tug on your heart strings but are as genuine as a can of Spam. However I received this one recently and it got my attention and started my wheels spinning. As soon as you see it you will understand how easily the principle taught in this touching story can be translated into how we welcome people to our parish and to personal evangelism.

I heard a statistic that a visitor to a church is 7 times more likely to come back a second time if invited by a member than if invited by the clergy. Why is that? Because when a priest invites them back they know that he is only doing his job, singing for his supper, so to speak. But if a member invites them back then they see ownership and belief in the community. I encourage you to watch this short story and then pray and think about how you can apply it to your life. We pray every day for God's kingdom to come on earth. We are not only to

pray for that, we are to work toward that goal in our everyday lives. Let the Lord direct you in how you can creatively apply this message and He will give you some practical ideas towards touching the lives of others. You can find it at <http://www.stservicemovie.com/>

Peace

Fr. Ray +