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Monday, March 17, 2008

Paul W. Smith

St. Patrick's Day inspires Metro Detroiters



Outta my mind on a Monday moanin':

- Happy St. Patrick's Day! It is awkward timing this year with Holy Week starting yesterday with Palm Sunday. To note the solemnity of Holy Week, the traditional Mass at Fr. Russ Kohler's historic Most Holy Trinity Church, celebrated mainly by Adam Cardinal Maida, actually took place this past Friday. The plan to have Fr. Stephen Rooney, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Monroe, as homilist is extra special given his birthplace -- Belfast, Ireland.

Mary Callaghan Lynch and Patrick Lynch chaired the Sharin'of the Green and The Motor City Lyric Opera's sixth "Patricktide" Concert.

What an uplifting experience it was having little flowers of many colors, the first through sixth-grade students of Most Holy Trinity school in Detroit singing strongly in my studio Friday under the direction of Lynn Rausch, Principal Kathleen McBride, Marketing Director Carla Haska and assistant Imelda Penya. All involved in this special school should be proud of this Detroit jewel about to reach its 170th year of educational excellence and spiritual development.

Thanks to University of Detroit Mercy marketing professor M.D. Bernacchi for these factoids:

St. Patrick was so popular in his day, that immediately upon his death in about 460, his converts started to celebrate his life, legend and lore.

One out of eight U.S. residents claim Irish ancestry.

The Census Bureau says our No. 1 ancestry is German, followed by the Irish. It is a day for the Irish. From 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. today, we will be broadcasting from the Detroit Athletic Club for Paul W. Smith's Annual WJR Radio St. Patrick's Day Celebration.

- Two things I'm looking forward to with the family: The Detroit Science Center's latest blockbuster exhibition, "SHIPWRECK: Pirates and Treasure" and "Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!" -- the computer-animated adaptation of the classic 1954 children's book. I hear it exceeds expectations.
- News note: By now, you've heard the unbelievable (and sad) story of the woman (literally) stuck to her toilet seat after not leaving it for two years. First on the scene to rescue her? Sheriff Deputy Whipple. Mr. Whipple, that is. I couldn't make this up.
- This Wednesday and Thursday we will be broadcasting from the Ford Motor Co. stand at the New York Auto Show.

Paul W. Smith is host of "The Paul W. Smith Show" on WJR (760 AM) from 5:30-9 a.m. Monday-Friday. Write him at letters@detnews.com or log on to wjr.com, click on the Paul W. Smith page and

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