

Dubtach with a more valuable sword, and told him for the future to let Bridget do as she pleased.

She was once staying with a pious family in which there was a deaf and dumb child. One day, all being absent but Bridget and this child, a poor person came to the door and asked for food. Bridget turned to the child and said: "My child, where does your mother keep her provisions?" "In the store room at the end of the passage," replied the child, and ran to show the place. When the family returned, what was their joy to find their afflicted child restored to speech and hearing!

Although Bridget's father wished her to embrace the married state, she determined to lead a life of consecration to God. She founded many convents in Ireland, trained many of the daughters of Erin in the religious life, and endeared herself much to them by her virtues. She was especially distinguished for her meekness, humility and sweetness of manner.

Hearing a sermon on the eight beatitudes, Bridget said to the nuns: "Let each of us select some beatitude, and make it a special virtue of her life." For herself she selected mercy, and practised it in an eminent degree.

While making her religious vows, Bridget knelt on the step of the altar, which immediately became a mass of verdure, and remained so evermore. Once the church was burnt to ashes, and the step remained untouched by the fire.

St. Bridget died on February 1, 525, at the age of 72. The Irish had such veneration for her that they said she was the woman who most resembled the Blessed Virgin. She is spoken of in their ancient documents as "another Mary," and the "Mary of the Irish."