First Friday tomorrow!! Confession tonight.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
April 4, 1935

Two New Saints.

The newspapers two days ago reported a consistory at Rome. The Holy Father had approved the canonization of Blessed John Fisher and Blessed Thomas More. These two English martyrs, according to the newspapers, were killed some four hundred years ago simply because they chose to obey the pope rather than their king.

That naive presentation must have been intended to tickle the ears of the broad-minded Americans, who, in 1928, looked for the Holy Father, through Al Smith, to capture all 48 of the United States of America.

The truth is that Blessed John Fisher and Blessed Thomas More gave up their lives to defend Christ's teachings on the inviolable sanctity of marriage.

The undisciplined libertine, Henry VIII, had married Catherine of Aragon. He wanted Anne Boleyn. He asked these two holy men to take an oath that his marriage with Catherine was null and void.

To them, what God had joined together, no man on earth, not even a king with power to kill, had power to loose. And they had so little fear of the king and so much love of God in their hearts that they gladly staked their lives on their conviction.

Chiefly for this heroic decision, made in the name of Christ, they will soon be canonized saints. They had, of course, lived very holy lives long before they had to make their decision, or they most probably would have found a way to pussy-foot out of it.

It is providential that they will be canonized in this pagan age when God's unequivocal will on marriage and divorce needs again and again to be dramatically reiterated.

Pagan Age?

Mr. O. O. McIntyre gave recently in his column a graphic picture of the times in which we are living. Here it is:

"Historians will title the modern scene the Show-Off Age. Modesty has gone out like a light. The bass drum is more important than talent and the loudest noise wins from fight ring or murder trial to the United States Senate. The trick is to hollow and shock, light red fires and solo self praise. The maid who came into a room of strangers, eyes demurely down, now enters with a cocktail glass aloft, a high kick and salty story. Girls of the fashionable boarding school celebrate graduation by singing double-entendre songs in night clubs or endorsing cigarettes across the magazine back covers. Anyone who sits in the shadows is a fuddy duddy waiting an overdue whiff of other. Life has become a problem of personal three-shotting, a perpetual gesture in circus hoop-la."

There is much truth in what Mr. McIntyre says, but the cause is far deeper than mere show-off. It is the absence of God in the lives of people, the common loss of the Christian sense of values.

PRAYERS: Ill, John Fitzpatrick (Morrissey), appendectomy; Charley O'donnell (Dillon); aunt of Jack Zorbas (Freshman); sister of Peter Cassano (Morrissey); friend of Pat McCarthy (Brownson). Five special intentions.