
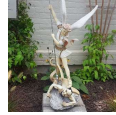


St. Luke the Evangelist Parish
13 North St., Geneseo, NY


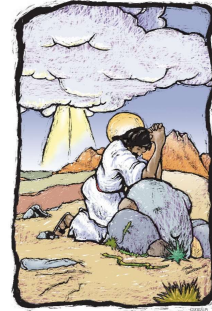



Three Saints to Aid Us
Fr. Jeffrey S. Tunncliff
May 19, 2021

1



Three Saints to Aid Us






Opening Prayer

2

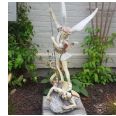


Three Saints to Aid Us





Why are the saints important?

3



Three Saints to Aid Us

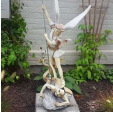


Why are the Saints Important?


- Examples of holy life
 - Mary – “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38)
- Examples of perseverance (St. John Fisher and Thomas More)
- We venerate the saints. We worship God alone.
- Intercessors
 - Why pray to the saints when I can pray to God?

For a fuller introduction to the saints see the first presentation in my previous series on the saints, *Our Saints and Intercessors*: www.renewaloffaith.org/saints

4



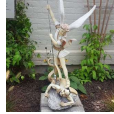
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Communion of Saints

- We are not created to be isolated individuals
- Catechism of the Catholic Church, 954* "The three states of the Church. "When the Lord comes in glory, and all his angels with him, death will be no more and all things will be subject to him. But at the present time some of his disciples are pilgrims on earth. Others have died and are being purified, while still others are in glory, contemplating 'in full light, God himself triune and one, exactly as he is'" (original quote from *Lumen Gentium*, 49).

5

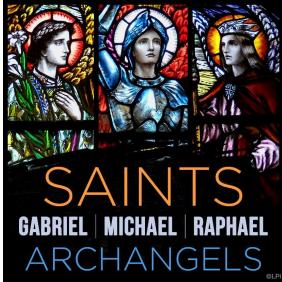


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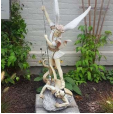


St. Michael the Archangel

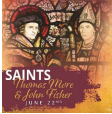
Feast:
September 29th
Shared with the
Archangels
Raphael and
Gabriel



6



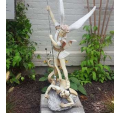
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A Moment with Sts. Raphael and Gabriel

- Raphael - Book of Tobit
 - Name means "healing of God" (*Life and Prayers of St. Michael*, 15)
- Gabriel - annunciation to
 - Mary – Luke 1:26-38
 - Zechariah – Luke 1:5-25
 - Name means "strength of God" (*Life and Prayers of St. Michael*, 15)

7



Three Saints to Aid Us

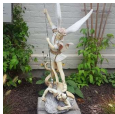


St. Michael - Angels

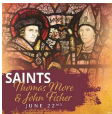
- "Angels are intelligent spiritual beings, who, like men and women, have their own free will. Being capable of sin, they too could choose whether to worship or turn away from God" North, *Life and Prayers*, 12)
- Nine groups of angels
(nine is the number of salutations in the St. Michael chaplet North, *Life and Prayers*, 12)

1. Seraphim	4. Dominions	7. Principalities
2. Cherubim	5. Powers	8. Archangels
3. Thrones	6. Virtues	9. Angels

8



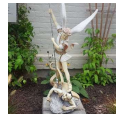
Three Saints to Aid Us




St. Michael the Archangel- Biography

- What the Bible tells us
 - Revelation 12:7-9
 - Existed very early (the battle described in Revelation 12 is "pre-history")
 - Daniel 10:13, 21, Daniel 12:1 – Prince (Guardian)
 - Jude 1:9 – Speaks of Michael arguing with the devil

9



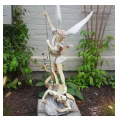
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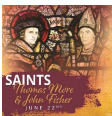

St. Michael the Archangel- Biography

- What Tradition tells us
 - The name "Michael" means "who is like unto God" which Michael uttered when Lucifer stood against God. *North, Life and Prayers*, 8)
 - Guardian of the Blessed Sacrament" (*North, Life and Prayers*, 9)

10



Three Saints to Aid Us

Why is St. Michael important to us today?

11



Three Saints to Aid Us




Why is St. Michael important to us today?

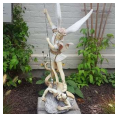
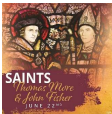
What is the most common image for St. Michael?

- St. Michael defeats the dragon
- Tie together with the battle against evil

→ Patron Saint of soldiers and police



12

Three Saints to Aid Us

St. Michael the Archangel— Roles

Also patron of grocers, doctors, mariners, paratroopers, and sickness according to https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=308

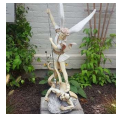
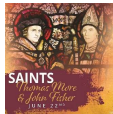
Ball, *A Handbook of Catholic Sacramentals* (180)

Four offices attributed to St. Michael


1. "To fight against Satan
2. To rescue the souls of the faithful from the power of the devil, especially at the hour of death
3. To be the champion of God's people
4. To call away from earth and bring men's souls to judgment"

- St. Michael appears in St. Joan of Arc's visions, Joan attributes her victories to him, (North, *Life and Prayers*, 42)

13

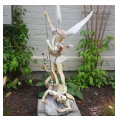
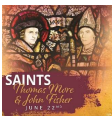



Three Saints to Aid Us



St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the wickedness
and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou,
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

14

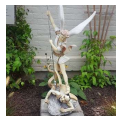
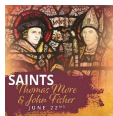
Three Saints to Aid Us

St. Michael the Archangel

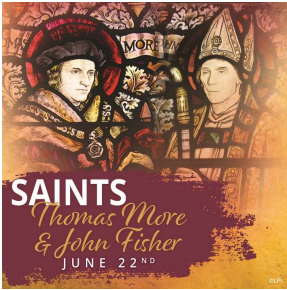
Where did the St. Michael Prayer come from?

"It was customary, through most of the twentieth century, to invoke St. Michael's help at the end of every Mass. Congregations prayed the prayer promoted by Pope Leo XIII at the end of the nineteenth century - a prayer he composed, reportedly, after an extraordinary and ominous vision of spiritual warfare as it would unfold in the coming years" (Hahn, *Angels and Saints*, 86. cf. North, *Life and Prayers*, 43-44).

15

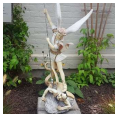
Three Saints to Aid Us



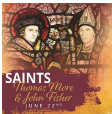

St. John Fisher
and
St. Thomas More

Memorial: June
22nd

16

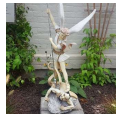


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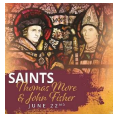



Why is St. John Fisher important to us today?

17



Three Saints to Aid Us



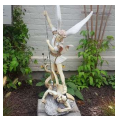
St. John Fisher

Patron Saint of our Diocese of Rochester

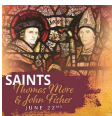
"In 1935, while still Bishop of Salt Lake, James E. Kearney had attended the canonization in Rome of SS. John Fisher and Thomas More. He retained a feeling of kinship with these two "modern" English-speaking saints; and when he became the fifth bishop of Rochester he gave many evidences of that sentiment." (McNamara, 491)

- 1941 – Received permission for a special feast for St. John Fisher alone (McNamara, 491)
- 1961- Pope John XXIII appointed Fisher as the patron saint of our diocese (McNamara, 491)

18



Three Saints to Aid Us

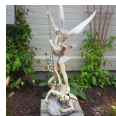


St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More

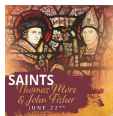
Worldly Influences

- The Printing Press
 - "In the age before the ready distribution of printed books – More was born the year after the first printed book was produced in England – the teaching was primarily of an oral kind, based upon memory and repetition" (Ackroyd, 23).
 - 23 years later, in the year 1500, printing presses numbered 1,700 (Ackroyd, 79).
- No separation of church and state
 - Religion and law one in More's studies (Ackroyd, 63)

19



Three Saints to Aid Us

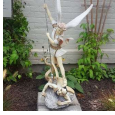



St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More

Worldly Influences

- Henry VIII
 - As a youth – studied under Fisher - https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=688
 - St. John Fisher worked "with" Henry VIII on the king's book responding to Luther for which Henry VIII was named "Defender of the Faith" by the pope (Reynolds, 130, Ackroyd, 226, 227). Henry VIII's book included a defense of the papacy (Reynolds, 131).

20

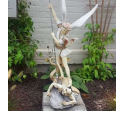
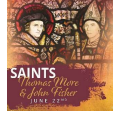
Three Saints to Aid Us

St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More

Worldly Influences

- Henry VIII cont'd
 - The annulment controversy (Reynolds, 194)
 - Henry VIII sought advice from Thomas More in 1527 who wanted to avoid the matter.
 - St. John Fisher, 'Concerned with the interpretation of the Scriptures and the authority of the Church' stood against the annulment
 - This led to Henry VIII's call to acknowledge him as head of Church of England. Initially he said he would not claim any more power (Reynolds, 240).

21

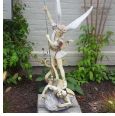

Three Saints to Aid Us

St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More

Worldly Influences

- Henry VIII cont'd
 - In 1532, Henry VIII decreed "no canons were in future to be promulgated without his consent, and canon law was to be revised by a royal commission" (Reynolds, 257)
 - Other clergy sought help from Fisher but he was ill (Reynolds, 258)
 - Henry VIII did not propose an actual break with Rome initially (Reynolds, 259)

22

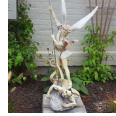

Three Saints to Aid Us

St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More

Worldly Influences

- Henry VIII cont'd
 - Henry VIII secretly marries Anne Boleyn and chose Thomas Cranmer to be Archbishop of Canterbury (Reynolds, 262)
 - John Fisher placed under house arrest to prevent interference (Reynolds, 263)
 - Cranmer annuls Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine and declared his marriage to Anne Boleyn valid (Reynolds, 264)
 - 1534
 - Bishops stripped of power to initiate cases of heresy (Reynolds, 288)
 - Taxes to Rome now go to king (Reynolds, 289)
 - New bishops take oath to king (Reynolds, 289)

23

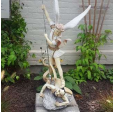
Three Saints to Aid Us

St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More

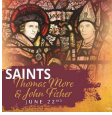
Worldly Influences

- Henry VIII – why was he so insistent on Thomas More and John Fisher agreeing to the Acts of Succession?
 - Feared they had influence on others (Reynolds, 302, 304)
 - He felt that if he released them, it could be seen as a sign of weakness on his part. This could lead to public opinion building against him (Reynolds, 307)

24



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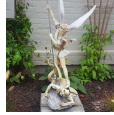


St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More


Worldly Influences

- Luther
 - Even before Luther - Heresy on the rise (Reynolds, 103 et al)
 - "Fisher, more than anyone else (including St. Thomas Aquinas), was cited in the Council of Trent's decree on Justification. He was greatest pre-Tridentine opponent of Luther and, keen to reform the life of the clergy, he instituted the seminary system at St. John's Cambridge, before it had that name" (Reynolds, introduction).
- Thomas More
 - Active role against Luther and heresy (Ackroyd, 226)
 - Custom and tradition very important to More (Ackroyd, 46-47). Luther went against that, causing disorder (Ackroyd, 68)

25



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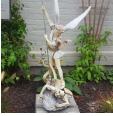


St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More


Relationship Between Them

- Fr. John Colet
 - More's religious mentor – Fr. John Colet (Ackroyd, 14)
 - Colet preached at the Convocation of Canterbury February 1512 (Reynolds, 99-100)
 - "bold denunciation of the "secular and worldly living in clerks and priests""
 - Named four particular evils of the clergy
 - Pride
 - Focusing on earthly pleasures
 - Covetousness – seeking "benefices and high promotions"
 - Busying themselves as "servants rather of men than of God"

26



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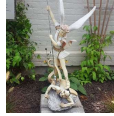


St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More


Worldly Influences

- Cardinal Wolsey
 - Example of the bad living preached against by Colet (Reynolds, 99-101)
 - Given **powers** equal to a cardinal legate, named a "cardinal a latere" (Reynolds, 83)
 - Showed his power greater than Archbishop of Canterbury by calling a synod of clergy (Reynolds, 84)
 - In 1527 Wolsey "ordered processions, prayers, and vigils in every church for the liberation of the pope-Rome had been sacked on 6th May by the starving imperialist troops" (Reynolds, 165).

27



Three Saints to Aid Us

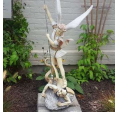
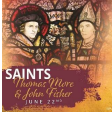


St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More

Relationship Between Them

- St. Thomas More made high steward at Cambridge in 1525 (Reynolds, 154)
- "One was, first and last, a preacher. By nature he was not sociably inclined, nor had he an ever ready sense of humour. The other was an active lawyer and statesman and the centre of a happy family. His dramatic instinct led him to use forms that were outside the needs of Fisher" (Reynolds, 342)
- Their different styles evidence by what each wrote as prisoners in the Tower (see Reynolds, 344)

28

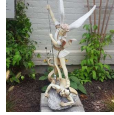
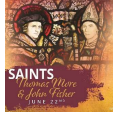



Three Saints to Aid Us

St. John Fisher - Biography

- Born in Beverley in 1469 (Reynolds, 9)
 - “at the height of its prosperity as one of the leading cloth-making and marketing towns of the country” (Reynolds, 9).
 - Churches, religious orders, and hospitals were plentiful in Beverley (Reynolds, 9)

29

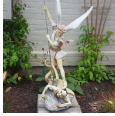




Three Saints to Aid Us

St. John Fisher – Biography - Family

- John Fisher’s father – Robert
 - A prosperous dealer in expensive fabrics (Reynolds, 9)
 - John had 3 siblings from his father. We only know the name of his brother Robert who worked with him managing his affairs (Reynolds, 10)
 - His father died in 1477.
- John Fisher’s mother – Agnes
 - Remarried and had four more children. One became a priest and one sister (Elizabeth) a Dominican nun (Reynolds, 10).

30

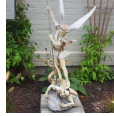




Three Saints to Aid Us

St. John Fisher – Biography - Education

- He has a strong aptitude for learning. Thus, at the early age of 12, he was enrolled at Cambridge (Reynolds, 11-12).
- He earned a degree in grammar in 1483 at the early age of 14, not exceptional but noteworthy, a B.A. in 1488, and a M.A. in 1491” (Reynolds, 15).
- “In June of that year a papal dispensation was granted from him to take priest’s orders while under canonical age” (age 22, Reynolds, 15-16)
- After his Master’s he “began the course of theology which normally lasted ten or twelve years. He took his doctorate in 1501, the earliest year in which he could have done so” (Reynolds, 16).
- Fisher began studying Greek at age 48 (Reynolds, 65). He also studied Hebrew around the same time (Reynolds, 68)

31

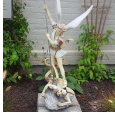
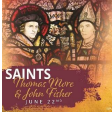



Three Saints to Aid Us

St. John Fisher – Biography - Career

- Series of university appointments (Reynolds, 18).
- Became a benefactor of Lady Margaret, mother of King Henry VII (grandmother of Henry VIII) (Reynolds, 20).
 - Lady Margaret (Reynolds, 22)
 - had a “deep devotion to the Church”
 - “early patron of the printing press”
 - “chose him as one of her chaplains and later as her confessor”
- Named vice-chancellor of Cambridge in 1501 (Reynolds, 25)
- Henry VII died 1509, Fisher preached the funeral sermon (Reynolds, 50)
- Lady Margaret died a few months after Henry VII (Reynolds, 52)

32

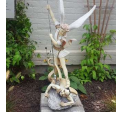
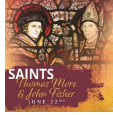
Three Saints to Aid Us

St. John Fisher – Biography

How He Sought to Make Things Better

- Dedicated (with support from Lady Margaret) to promote study of theology and raising the standard of preaching (Reynolds, 27)
- Elected chancellor of Cambridge in 1504 (annually until 1514 when, breaking with tradition, was named permanent chancellor) (Reynolds, 38)

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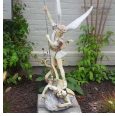

Three Saints to Aid Us

St. John Fisher – Biography

How He Sought to Make Things Better

- Consecrated bishop November 24, 1504 and named a member of the King's Council (Reynolds, 38).
 - King Henry VII's place in "naming" Fisher a bishop (Reynolds, 39)
 - "Rochester was the smallest and poorest diocese in England...Rochester was regarded as the first rung of the episcopal ladder" (Reynolds, 41)
- As Rochester lay on the road from Canterbury to London, visitors of distinction who were travelling from or to Dover would expect to be received by the Bishop of Rochester" (Reynolds, 86) but he did not let this to get out of hand "to overwhelm his primary duty to the Church as a bishop" (Reynolds, 87).

34

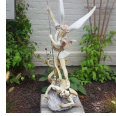

Three Saints to Aid Us

St. John Fisher – Biography

How He Sought to Make Things Better

- Founded St. John's College at Cambridge (Reynolds, 73)
 - "The aims of the college were stated to be, the worship of God, training in uprightness of life, and the strengthening of the Christian faith" (Reynolds, 77)
 - Founded as a seminary than secular institute (Reynolds, 77)
- Served in various parliaments (Reynolds, 83 et al)

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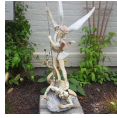



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St. John Fisher - Style

- The lack of pastoral bishops then (Reynolds, 40)
- "While the Registers do not add substantially to our knowledge of John Fisher, they throw light on the administration of the diocese and confirm the reputation he left of being a pastoral bishop" (Reynolds, 4).
- Quoted scripture a lot, did quote church fathers like St. Augustine (Reynolds, 33)
- "a preaching bishop....The understanding of the life of ordinary folk is shown in the homely illustrations he used" (Reynolds, 341) "The general theme of the sermons is sin, repentance, and the mercy of God" (Reynolds, 34 cf. 342).

36



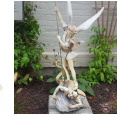
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St. John Fisher – Arrest

- Fisher was already old and suffering illness as the controversy with Henry VIII began (Reynolds, 260)
- Fisher arrested for treason in 1533 ("The king remitted the penalty of 300 pounds, one year's revenue of his bishopric" (Reynolds, 287).
- "John Fisher was summoned to appear at Lambeth on 13th April 1534 to take the oath required by the Act of Succession" (Reynolds, 295).
- Even in the tower, Fisher continued writing. For his half-sister, Elizabeth (Dominican Nun) he wrote *A Spiritual Consolation* and *The Ways to Perfect Religion* (Reynolds, 333).

37



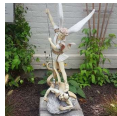
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St. John Fisher – Named Cardinal

- While in prison Fisher was named a cardinal (see Reynolds, 352-353)
 - Fisher's response - "I know myself far unworthy... I will work with it by all means I can to benefit the church of Christ, and in that respect I will receive it on my knees" (Reynolds, 355)
 - Henry VIII's response – "But I will so provide that, whensoever it cometh, he shall wear it on his shoulders, for head shall he have none to see it on" (Reynolds, 355).
- Fisher is the church's only cardinal martyr (Reynolds, intro)

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St. John Fisher – The Day of Martyrdom

- Described by William Rastell (present there) as "very feeble and sickly of body, but of constant courage and lusty heart, glad to die for the truth of Christ's Catholic faith" (Reynolds, 375. cf. 379).
- When awakened early for his execution, he asked to be allowed to sleep until the time was close to rest as he was sick and weak (Reynolds, 376)
- Carried a New Testament with him to his execution (Reynolds, 377)
- His executioner asks for and Fisher "forgave him heartily" (Reynolds, 379)

39



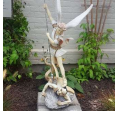
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St. John Fisher – The Day of Martyrdom

- He prayed on the stage just before his execution (Reynolds, 380).
- Buried without reverence (Reynolds, 382)
- "The head was parboiled and set up on London Bridge; where the heads of the young Carthusians were already exposed" (Reynolds, 382)
- Fisher was martyred June 22nd. Thomas More's execution was a few days later on July 6th (Reynolds, 382)
- Ultimately Fisher and More both buried "at the belfry end of the chapel of St. Peter ad Vincula within the Tower."

40



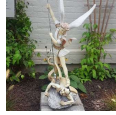
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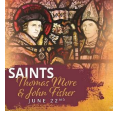

St. John Fisher– Writings

- Works include
 - In 1525 (Reynolds, 144)
 - *Sacri Sacerdoti Defensio* (Defence of the Priesthood)
 - *Defensio Reigie Assertionis* “a defence of the King’s Book on the seven sacraments”
- “His English works are not considerable in bulk; they consist mainly of sermons and devotional writings. He wrote no full length book, as far as is known, in his own language” (Reynolds, 340).

41

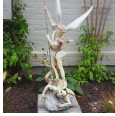


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Why is St. Thomas More important to us today?

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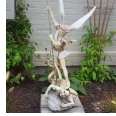
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St. Thomas More - Biography

- Born in London in 1478 (Ackroyd, 6)
- Thomas More’s father - John More
 - A prominent and wealthy attorney (Ackroyd, 6, 9)
 - His father died in 1500 (Ackroyd, 72)
- Thomas More’s mother Agnes
 - John More’s first wife and likely was the mother of all six children (Ackroyd, 11)
- Named after his grandfather **and St. Thomas Becket, a martyr who was born near More’s own house** (Ackroyd, 7)
- Plagues in his childhood (Ackroyd, 15, 42)

43



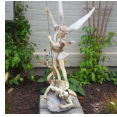
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St. Thomas More - Biography

- More’s religious mentor – Fr. John Colet (Ackroyd, 14)
- Archbishop Morton (Ackroyd, 15-16)
 - At age 12, Thomas More became a page in Morton’s household. Morton was Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Chancellor of England (taking the role of a page was not uncommon for the time (Ackroyd, 29)
- Had his own private chapel (Ackroyd, 254)
 - “On Fridays and holy days, according to his early biographers, he spent the entire day abstaining within his private chapel.” (Ackroyd, 255-256)

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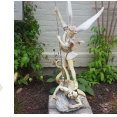
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St. Thomas More - Education

- Started at Oxford at age of 14 (Ackroyd, 38)
- Transferred from Oxford to New Inn at age 16 to begin legal training (Ackroyd, 53)
- “For More, public duty was the natural consequence of his professional training as a rhetorician, and at no point did it ever come into conflict with his instinctive piety; indeed, it was an aspect of it” (Ackroyd, 91).

45



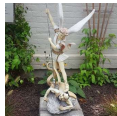
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St. Thomas More - Family

- Married Jane Colt in 1505 at age of 26 (Ackroyd, 118). She died at age of 22 unknown cause (Ackroyd, 141)
- Remarried quickly to care for the children (Ackroyd, 142)
- Second wife was a long-time acquaintance – Alice Middleton (Ackroyd, 143)
- Prayed together AS A FAMILY (Ackroyd, 145-146)
- Promoted education for women (Ackroyd, 146, 147)

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St. Thomas More – Career

- In 1516 More joined the King's Council (which was “controlled and administered by Cardinal Wolsey) (Ackroyd, 182)
- In 1529, Cardinal Wolsey's power was taken from him and he was succeeded by Thomas More as chancellor of England (Reynolds, 227, cf. Ackroyd, 287)).
- “But by appointing a layman as chancellor for the first time in almost a hundred years, Henry was also reasserting his own power over that of the Church. Wolsey's fall and More's appointment, therefore, were directly associated with the king's desire to separate himself from Catherine of Aragon” (Ackroyd, 289).

47



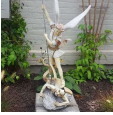
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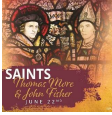
St. Thomas More – as Chancellor

- “For thirty-one months Thomas More embodied the law of England. He was the presiding figure in Chancery and in the Star Chamber; he was known as ‘the keeper of the king's conscience’ and, in that capacity, he was permitted to apply equity and moral judgment to the strict application of the law” (Ackroyd, 294).
- His fall begins
 - “One of the reasons that More remained in office is because there were still many nobles, lawyers and prelates who shared his beliefs” (Ackroyd, 316).
 - Seemed to relish his fall from power and spoke of martyrdom (Ackroyd, 331)
- Patron Saint of attorneys, statesmen, and politicians

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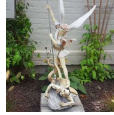
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St. Thomas More – Writings

- *Utopia*
- 276 poems in Latin (Ackroyd, 92).
- *A Dialogue of Comfort Against Tribulation*
- *A Dialogue Concerning Heresies*

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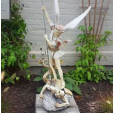
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In conclusion

- Both St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More serve as examples of perseverance (even unto martyrdom) and can be our intercessors for the perseverance we need.
- We are in a battle against evil. We need St. Michael to defend us in battle.

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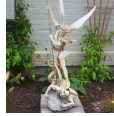
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Future Schedule

- As most of you know, on June 29th I am being reassigned to be the Parochial Administrator of two churches, St. Mary's of the Lake in Watkins Glen, and St. Benedict's in Odessa. So, this is my last webinar/presentation at St. Luke's. I plan to continue offering adult faith formation. The best way to follow this is checking my blog at <http://blog.renewaloffaith.org/blog> (you can subscribe by email).
- When you exit this webinar a short evaluation questionnaire should come up to invite your feedback.
- The slides for this presentation will be available online at www.renewaloffaith.org/threesaints

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Resources

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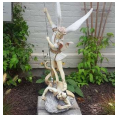

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