

Confessions at all Masses  
and after 7:30 P.M. in  
Sorin and B-P chapels.  
Buzz twice.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
August 30, 1944

Late morning Mass in  
Sorin at 7:20;  
Communion until noon.

### The Beheading Of John.

A human head on a dish -- not a very pleasant subject for meditation. Yet mother Church thinks there is something of importance in it. Yesterday was commemorated as the Beheading of St. John the Baptist. The story of the head on the dish was related in the Divine Office said by the priest and in the gospel of the Mass of the day.

When there is murder or trouble afoot, the French say, "Cherchez la femme," look for the woman. There were two in the case of John. Herod was running around with another man's wife. He went the limit in adultery; he was living with his own brother's wife; that's incest. John the Baptist was a prophet sent by God. He knew of Herod's sinfulness, and so, following his duty, he kept telling Herod in emphatic language that he must give up his unlawful wife. Herodias wanted the dignity of wife of Herod for the social prestige it gave her. She was afraid that the constant preaching on John's part would soften Herod. She laid snares for John. She waited her chance, and it came.

One night Herod gave a party for a group of government officials. Herodias of course was present. There was a program of entertainment for the guests. The daughter of Herodias was one of the entertainers. She must have hit a high in oriental dancing because Herod was so pleased with the performance that he stood up and told the girl, "What ever thou dost ask, I will give thee, even though it be half of my kingdom." That speech was the cue Herodias wanted. This was a big transaction for the daughter, so she came to the mother seeking counsel, "What am I to ask for?" The mother replied, "The head of John the Baptist."

The lust of Herod had pretty well thinned out his will power. He was afraid not to keep his promise. John was executed, and his head was brought in on a dish and given to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. Holy Scripture says no more, leaving us to guess what the mother did with the trophy of her victory.

Maybe you need that story. Maybe you have been away from the Sacraments for a long period and a John the Baptist in the form of a friend has been urging you to turn away from a life of sin. Maybe you beheaded your friend with a cutting tongue, telling him to mind his own affairs. Herod had an unhappy ending. The same sort of death is in store for every Herod. If you need confession, better go tonight.

### A revival Meeting.

Two ministers travelled from America to London. There they hired a hall and addressed more than fifteen thousand men at one time. One of these preachers invited all who desired to give themselves to God to come forward. His clear voice rang out: "Who will come to the Lord?" For some time the immense audience remained silent. Then one voice was raised: "I will." At once, from all parts that cry "I will," reechoed. While the people were slowly coming from the long flight of stairs and making their way to the front places, the two missionaries, stretching out their arms to them, continued their appeal "Who will come to the Lord?" Thousands responded and the cry "I will" resounded throughout the hall.

Our Blessed Lord appeared to St. Margaret Mary one day. She was told to draw a picture of His Sacred Heart, and she obeyed. She drew the Heart with the wound made by the lance, surrounded by a crown of thorns and surmounted by a cross. Christ wants reparation and love. Instead of crying to us: "Who will come to the Lord?" He left us the picture of His Sacred Heart aflame with love to draw us to His side. Christ asked for Communion of Reparation on the first Friday of every month. Friday is first Friday. Are you going to say "I will" to His earnest request?

PRAYERS: (deceased) brother of Brother Alan, C.S.C. (Ill) mother of Larry Smith (Z)