

The Forty Martyrs Are Canonized

By RONALD PAPPERT

The Forty Martyrs of England and Wales were canonized last Sunday by Pope Paul VI. The largest group of saints ever canonized, they represent men and women of many different ages and occupations who were executed between the years 1535 and 1679:

Many disapproved of the canonization as being detrimental to the ecumenical spirit, since they were martyred during the English Protestant Reformation. These 40 martyrs, however, were selected 10 years ago from a long list and are known for their spirit of charity and holiness in the face of unjust, legal persecution.

Among the many laws enforced in 16th Century England against Catholics, one of the most damaging was enacted by Queen Elizabeth I in 1585 which made it high treason to be a priest and a felony to assist one, both punishable by death. Many of these martyrs were priests and laymen who carried out an extensive underground apostolate in violation of these laws.

Famous members of the group include Blessed Cuthbert Mayne, secular priest; Blessed Margaret Clitherow, wife and mother; Blessed Edmund Campion, Jesuit missionary; and Blessed Richard Gwyn, husband and school teacher.

Also, well known to architectural historians in England, Blessed Nicholas Owen, the saintly carpenter who had one of the most unusual jobs of all times — building secret hiding places in Catholic homes for fugitive priests. His work was so secret, so creative and so extensive that they are still



Scene from painting of "40 Martyrs".

being found today. He spoke little, prayed much, worked hard, and in the end gave his

life to God rather than betray the trust that his special vocation demanded.

Christie Named To Cancer Post

R. James Christie of 165 Croydon Road, Rochester, has been named chairman of the executive committee, American Cancer Society, New York State Division.

This is the latest in a series of honors for Christie, who is a teacher of laryngectomies (persons who have had their larynx removed because of cancer). A laryngectomee himself, Christie has given time for the past 10 years at the Rochester Hearing and Speech Center teaching persons how to use their esophagus to speak.

8 Mooney Seniors Awarded Letters

Letters of commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation have been awarded to eight seniors at Cardinal Mooney High School, the principal, Brother James DeTemple, CSC., announced last week.

The students are Catherine Burt, John Erbland, Jeanne Fineout, Gregory Fromen, Barbara Glasow, Mary J. Hoefler, Martin Hofmann and Bonnie Koehler. The announcement said they placed in the top two per cent of the class of 1971 across the country, in the scholarship qualifying test last February.

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