



January 31, 2024

The Spirituality Committee of the
Catholic Bar Association presents
a Book Review of

JOHN FISHER AND THOMAS MORE: KEEPING THEIR SOULS WHILE LOSING THEIR HEADS

By Robert J. Conrad

Foreword by Hadley Arkes

Reviewed by Linda Carroll
Chair, Spirituality Committee of the CBA

John Fisher and Thomas More: Keeping Their Souls While Losing Their Heads is a concise, well-written book, that shares a novel insight into the two saints, John Fisher and Thomas More. Written by a federal trial judge and former prosecutor, it is not a biography. Rather, the book is about how two men, who lived in very challenging geo-political times that threatened the right to one's well-formed

conscience, met their challenges and stood firm when everyone around them collapsed to the pressure of the powerful to denounce what is right and true. It is about how they each prayed, spoke, and wrote, and kept silent, in their defense against a legal mandate of the Crown.

Judge Conrad walks the reader through the legal proceedings against Queen Catherine, and John Fisher's role in her defense that led to his ultimate demise. He further compares the legal processes used in the cases of Fisher and More to our legal processes today. Judge Conrad highlights the similarities between Fisher and More in regard to their detachment from this world, and their focus on the will of God, at a time that shares a frightening number of similarities to our own time. The book ends with an Appendix that is full of prayer, including a Novena to St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher, intended to assist the reader in following in the spiritual footsteps of the two saintly men.

The forward to the book was written by Professor Hadley Arkes, Director of the James Wilson Institute.

John Fisher and Thomas More Keeping Their Souls While Losing Their Heads [is available at Tan Books](#), on Amazon, and other booksellers. It is available on kindle, in hard copy, and as an audiobook.