

## **What is Beatification?**

When the Holy Father beatifies a Servant of God and bestows the title Blessed upon him/her, he declares that the Servant of God has practiced the Christian virtues to a heroic degree and proposes the example of that person as a model for Christian life and virtue. A Servant of God is declared Blessed only after an exhaustive study of his/her life, work and practice of virtue. Included in this study is the official approbation on the part of the Vatican authorities of a favor, generally a miracle, granted through the intercession of the Blessed. It is at this time that the Holy Father permits a limited public devotion to the Servant of God by placing the newly declared Blessed's name on the Church's calendar of liturgical feasts. The person's feastday is generally the anniversary of his/her death which is considered to be one's birth into eternal life. On this date a Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours may be celebrated in honor of the Blessed. Public devotion to the newly declared Blessed is generally limited to determined places, for example, to a religious community founded by the person and its particular ministries or to particular country or diocese where the person's reputation for holiness has a strong influence on the members of the local church and is a source of encouragement to imitate his/her practice of virtue.

Beatification should not be confused with canonization. Beatification is must be viewed as a step in the process of canonization. Canonization takes place later and only after further study of the Blessed's life and virtue and the approbation of an additional miracle attributed to his/her intercession. At the time of canonization, the Holy Father, in virtue of his infallibility, declares that the Blessed is among the Saints in heaven and inscribes the person's name on the official list (canon) of the Saints of the Church. It is at this time that public devotion to the newly declared Saint is extended to the universal Church.

**Additional Causes Presented to  
the Vatican Congregation for the Causes of the Saints**

The Congregation of Holy Cross has presented four additional members to the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints for consideration for canonization and beatification.

**Canonization:**

Blessed Brother André Bessette, c.s.c., apostle of Saint Joseph and founder of the Oratory of St. Joseph, Montreal, Canada.

Declaration of Heroicity of Virtue (stage prior to beatification):

Father Patric Peyton, c.s.c., apostle of the Rosary and founder of the Family Rosary Crusade and the Family Theatre

Most Rev. Theotonius Ganguly, c.s.c., Archbishop of Dhaka, Bangladesh and first native son of his country to be ordained bishop.

**In preparation** for the diocesan inquiry into the practice of virtue:

Most Rev. Vincent McCauley, c.s.c., first bishop of the diocesis of Fort Portal, Uganda