THE BEATIFICATION OF
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Troyes, France

an explanation of the rite
What is Beatification?

(source: http://cscrfs-si.org)

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 decree 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 feast day 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 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 after the beatification. 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.

Throughout her history, the Church has always celebrated holiness as an expression of the “wonderful things’ the Lord works in the life of his People.” (Congregation for the Causes of Saints)
**WHEN VOICES SPEAK...**

-the voice of the **People**
- reputed in Troyes ... with the opening of the cause
- sustained by the Oblate Sisters and Oblates of St. Francis de Sales ...
  through the promotion of the cause

-the voice of **God** (grace)
- manifest in a life of heroic virtue
- revealed in a supernatural act

-the voice of the **Church**
- verified through historical, medical, & theological examinations
- affirmed by the bishops, cardinals, and pope

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STEPS ALONG THE WAY …

1938 … cause opens in diocese of Troyes
1964 … cause introduced in Rome
1980 … Positio super causae introductione published
1981 … diocesan investigation of miracle
1995 … decree on the validity of the process
1998 … Positio super virtutibus published
2009 … decree on heroicity of virtues
2010 … Positio super miro published
2011 … decree affirming miracle
2012 … Rite of BEATIFICATION (September 22)

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THE RITE OF BEATIFICATION

(source: Congregation for the Causes of Saints, “new procedures”)

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT:

before 1662
The Pope conceded a local cult, with details determined by the Promoter of the Cause and the local Ordinary.

1662 – 1968
A two-phase celebration that included celebration of the rite, presided over by a Canonical Bishop of the Vatican Chapter, and subsequent veneration by the Pope.

1971 – 2004
Pope Paul VI introduces the innovation of presiding personally at the rite in Rome. A “beatification formula” is introduced and pronounced by the Pope.

from 2005 to today
Pope Benedict XVI established that the Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints presides at the rite and reads the apostolic letter by which the Pope concedes the title of “blessed.” The rite takes place in the local diocese.

The first Beatification in solemn form was that of St. Francis de Sales in 1662!

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LITURGICAL ELEMENTS: during celebration of the Mass, after the penitential rite and before the “Gloria”

request for beatification
The Diocesan Bishop formally requests that the Venerable Servant of God be inscribed among the Blessed.

biography
The Postulator of the Cause reads a biographical summary of the life of the Venerable Servant of God.

apostolic letter
The Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints reads the papal letter by which the Venerable Servant of God is declared “Blessed” and announces the date (in this case, October 12) on which a limited cult (worship) may be celebrated in memory of the newly Blessed.

acclamation
The Congregation responds, and an image of the Blessed is unveiled.

thanksgiving
The Diocesan Bishop expresses thanks to the Holy Father.

sign of peace
The Diocesan Bishop, the Postulator of the Cause, and the Superiors General, share a sign of peace with the Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation.

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