

Mother Teresa's fast track to sainthood

The beatification of Mother Teresa of Calcutta – the Albanian nun who spent her life caring for the dying in India's slums – has moved her one step from sainthood. Pope John Paul II granted a special dispensation in 1999 for the process to begin, waiving the customary five-year period after death

Sep 5, 1997: Mother Teresa, born as **Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu** on August 26, 1910, dies from a heart attack

"Sainthood cause"

Jul 1999: Diocesan inquiry into "saint of the gutters" by Archbishop **Henry D'Souza** of Calcutta to ensure...

1. Reputation for life of **sanctity** and **miracles**
2. Subject is not focus of worship
3. Written/spoken views (i.e. recorded interviews) not contrary to faith or morals

Aug 2001: Report on "reputation of sanctity" completed. 35,000-page document, which lists virtues and alleged miracles, delivered to Vatican's **Congregation for the Cause of Saints**



First miracle

Oct 2002: **Congregation** approves report of sanctity and a miracle attributed to Mother Teresa – overnight recovery, on the anniversary of the nun's death, of a young Indian woman suffering from intestinal cancer

Dec: After consulting panel of doctors, Vatican judges cure to be without any medical explanation and announces that Mother Teresa is to be beatified

Beatification (Blessed)

Oct 19, 2003: More than 250,000 people crowd into St. Peter's Square as John Paul II proclaims Mother Teresa blessed – just six years after her death

Canonization (Saint)

The church requires a further "divine sign" in the form of a second posthumous miracle

No one has ever been beatified in so short a time as Mother Teresa. The record for sainthood is held by **Josemaria Escriva**, founder of **Opus Dei**, who was beatified in 1992, 17 years after his death, and canonized 10 years later

