

John Paul II on fast track to sainthood

The sudden recovery of a French nun suffering from Parkinson's disease is at the heart of proceedings which could lead to the canonisation of John Paul II. Pope Benedict XVI has waived the customary five-year waiting period to start the process leading to beatification, following public calls to name him a saint as soon as possible



SANTO SUBITO

Apr 2, 2005: Pope John Paul II dies

Apr 8: Banners proclaiming **Santo Subito – Sainthood Now** – displayed at funeral Mass in St. Peter's Square

Apr 10: Archbishop **Stanislaw Dziwisz**, (right) is quoted as saying that John Paul may have performed a miracle in 1998 when a wealthy American Jew recovered from a brain tumour after receiving Holy Communion from him



May 13: Pope Benedict XVI (above) launches beatification proceedings, overriding waiting period. Vatican declares John Paul a *Servant of God*



May 30: Cardinal **Camillo Ruini**, (left) signs edict inviting testimony from witnesses about John Paul's virtues and asking anyone with his manuscripts or other documents to give them to the Vatican

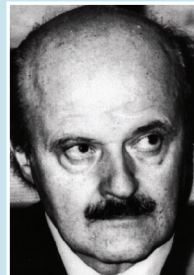
Jun: Monsignor **Slawomir Oder** (below) – postulator spearheading John Paul's cause – receives letter from community of French nuns saying that after praying to late pontiff to cure a nun suffering from extreme Parkinson's disease, the woman is miraculously cured



Jun 19: Vatican launches web site to collect evidence "in favour or against" John Paul's reputation for holiness

Jun 28: John Paul's beatification cause officially opens – officials take oath promising to keep testimony of witnesses secret

Dec 6: Eleven dissident theologians appeal against beatification. They cite John Paul's rigidly conservative stand on issues such as contraception, limitations on role of women, sexual abuse scandals in the Church, and Vatican's "murky" financial deals with Italy's **Banco Ambrosiano**, which went bankrupt in 1982 owing \$1,287bn. Bank chairman **Roberto Calvi** (right) – dubbed **God's Banker** – fled Italy and was later found hanging from Blackfriars Bridge in London



Jan 31: Msgr. Oder announces official inquiry into possible French miracle

NEXT STEPS ON ROAD TO SAINTHOOD

1. Venerable. If a miracle is verified to have occurred after his death, John Paul will be declared **Venerable**

2. Blessed. Theologians will vote on soundness of faith and reputation for holiness. If favourable, John Paul will be declared **Blessed of the Church**

3. Sainthood. Declared if second miracle is attributed to John Paul