

Steps along the road to sainthood

The unprecedented double canonization of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II takes the number of pontiffs elevated to sainthood to 80. There have been 266 popes from St. Peter to Pope Francis

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SERVANT OF GOD

Once *Cause for Canonization* begins, Vatican's *Congregation of the Causes of Saints (CCS)* mounts exhaustive search of late pope's life history. *Positio* – official position paper – is passed to doctrinal watchdog, *Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith*

◀ John XXIII (1881-1963)
Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli
Pope from 1958 to 1963

John Paul II (1920-2005)
Karol Józef Wojtyła
Pope from 1978 to 2005 ▶

Apr 2, 2005: Pope John Paul
dies after struggling with Parkinson's disease for more than a decade

2

VENERABLE

Dec 2009: Pope Benedict declares John Paul as *Venerable* – having lived a life *heroic in virtue*

Apr 27, 2014:
Declaration of
Canonization

2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

May: Successor
Pope Benedict XVI
waives five-year waiting
rule to fast track road
to sainthood

Dec 2010: Members of CCS
accept Sister Normand case as
indisputable miracle, resulting
through intercession
of John Paul

Jan 14, 2011:
Pope Benedict (*right*)
declares **first
miracle**, allowing
beatification of
John Paul.
Pope John is beatified in
2000 after Vatican declares
that 1966 healing of an Italian nun,
dying from complications after surgery,
is an uncontested miracle. A second
miracle is usually required for canonization



Jul 5, 2013:
Pope Francis
(*below*)
issues decree
recognizing
healing of

brain aneurysm in **Floribeth Mora Diaz**
(*above*) as **second miracle** needed
for **canonization** of John Paul.
Francis takes rare step of waiving
requirement of second miracle
for John



**Jun: Sister Marie
Simon-Pierre Normand**
(*above*), of Congregation
of Little Sisters of
Catholic Motherhood,
is cured of Parkinson's
disease after her order
prays to John Paul
to ease her
suffering

3

BLESSED

May 1: John Paul is beatified
at ceremony in St Peter's Square
before an estimated one million pilgrims.
Declared **Blessed**, his feast day is
October 22 – anniversary of inauguration
of his pontificate in 1978

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SAINTHOOD

Sep 30: Pope Francis hosts
consistory of cardinals which
approves **canonization** of Blessed
John Paul and John. Date for
ceremony is
announced

ACT OF CANONIZATION
Apr 27, 2014, Divine Mercy Sunday:
Pope Francis will declare canonization
of Popes John XXIII and John Paul II at
Solemn Mass in Saint Peter's Square

