



The canonization process

Sainthood is a rare designation in the Catholic Church conferred on a person determined to be united with God in heaven, able to serve as an intercessory to God on behalf of the living and worthy of public veneration. The opening of the cause is one of the first steps in the process to canonization.

With rare exceptions, the journey toward sainthood takes decades or even longer. The Diocese of Erie begins the first phase of the process of investigation under the direction of the bishop, a process which in itself can take years to complete. Eventually, the documentation will be sent to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome, at which point a second phase of investigations would begin.

If the pope accepts the recommendation of the Congregation in Rome that the high standards for a “heroic, virtuous life” have been met by a candidate, the pope declares such and the candidate becomes known as Venerable.

To achieve the distinction of Blessed, a miracle that can be attributed to the intercession of the candidate must be verified. The miracle must have occurred after praying directly to the candidate to demonstrate intercessory power. Often, a miracle involves a medical recovery



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that cannot be attributed to science or other means and has undergone a rigorous independent review by theologians and experts in the field of study.

After a second miracle is reported and verified, the pope approves formal recognition of the person as a saint and confers canonization at a special Mass at the Vatican.

**More information about Dr. Barber's life and the process of canonization,
as well as video testimonies from persons who knew her,
is available online at www.DrBarber.org.**

**The website also includes ways to support the cause for canonization,
including a prayer for the faithful,
and an option to make a donation to support efforts
to communicate about Dr. Barber's life and work.
The website also provides a pathway for anyone
interested in providing testimony or sharing their experiences with Dr. Barber.**

**Parties interested in providing testimony
are encouraged to contact
Msgr. Thomas McSweeney, postulator for the cause, at 814-878-5953.**

***Prayer for the Beatification and Canonization
of Gertrude A. Barber***

Merciful Father,

You guided Your servant Gertrude Barber to a lifetime ministry of bringing hope to children and their parents as they faced the often overwhelming challenges of living with autism and disabilities, while inspiring us to recognize all individuals as people of God.

We know you hear our prayers as we gather in Your name:

If it is in Your design that Gertrude be glorified by the Church,
so as to further her extraordinary mission, show us Your will.

Grant us the grace to hear your answer and commit ourselves
to take up her cause by the merits of Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

Imprimatur
The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie
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