

Four Steps Towards Sainthood, towards Canonization

The Four Steps: Servant of God, Venerable, Blessed and Saint.

*The process to make someone a saint cannot normally start until at least **five years after their death.***

- 1) *It starts with an investigation into the life of the individual, to see whether they lived their lives **with sufficient holiness and virtue to be considered for sainthood.** Once the case is accepted for consideration, the individual can be called a "**Servant of God**".*
- 2) *The **Congregation for the Causes of Saints** then scrutinizes the evidence of the candidate's holiness, work and signs that people have been drawn to prayer through their example. If the Congregation approves the case, it is passed to the Pope. **If the Pope decides that the person lived a life of "heroic virtue", they can then be called "Venerable".***
- 3) ***For beatification, a miracle needs to be attributed to prayers made to the individual after their death.** After beatification, the candidate is **given the title "Blessed".** There is one exception to the miracle requirement - a **Martyr**, someone who died for their faith, **can be beatified without a verified miracle.***
- 4) ***Canonization is the final step in declaring a deceased person a Saint.** To reach this stage, a **second miracle** normally needs to be **attributed to prayers made to the candidate after they have been beatified.** **Martyrs, however, only need one verified miracle to become a Saint.***