

## Sainthood Process and Timeline of the Cause of *Venerable Patrick Peyton*

### SAINTHOOD PROCESS

#### THE STAGES OF CANONIZATION:

- **Servant of God:** Promoter group (diocese, parish, religious congregation, etc.) requests an investigation by the Holy See; if granted, the candidate receives the title: Servant of God.
- **Venerable:** The declaration of a person's heroic virtues and sanctity of life, after which his/her title is: Venerable.
- **Blessed:** Once a miracle is attributed to the intercession of the candidate, the candidate is declared: Blessed.
- **Saint:** After a second miracle is attributed to the candidate's intercession, the Holy Father declares the candidate to be a Saint.

### Timeline of the Cause of Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C.

- Father Patrick Peyton died on **June 3, 1992**, at the age of 83, in San Pedro, California. He was buried at the cemetery of the Congregation of Holy Cross in Easton, Massachusetts. The cause was transferred from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles (his place of death) to the Diocese of Fall River (the place of his burial).
- **July, 1997:** First step in the Cause process. The Promoter group – the Congregation of Holy Cross – through the Postulator asked the bishop for the opening of an investigation.
- **June, 2001:** A “nihil obstat” was granted from Rome and Father Peyton was given the title, “Servant of God.”
- **October, 2003:** Bishop George Coleman, D.D., the Bishop of Fall River, MA, presided over the opening of the Diocesan Inquiry. Diocesan tribunal members reviewed the heroic practice of virtue and reputation for holiness of Father Peyton and heard witness testimony on his heroic Christian virtues and holiness of life. The members of the Theological Commission and the Historical Commission were officially appointed.
  - Theological Commission is appointed to study the candidate's writings, published and unpublished, to ascertain faithfulness to teachings of the Catholic Church.
  - The Historical Commission is appointed to collect and examine all the documents of the candidate.
- **November 2005,** the review of a possible medical miracle in Africa was closed and the documentation was sent to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome. The subjects of the possible medical miracle, two family members, were both healed from a life-threatening disease. With Holy Cross Fathers, they prayed for Father Peyton's intercession. To date both family members are symptom-free of the disease.
- **November, 2008,** due to the significant scope of the study, the Cause for Sainthood of Father Peyton was moved from the Diocese of Fall River to the Archdiocese of Baltimore by the Holy See. Members of the ecclesiastical tribunal, assigned to study the life and ministry of Father Peyton, were sworn-in during a Mass and given direction by Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

- **July, 2010:** The tribunal in Baltimore closed and the 6,000 pages of documentation (known as the "Acts") was sent to Rome to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. This document is the result of a six-year study conducted by the Archdiocese of Baltimore in conjunction with 34 other dioceses (Rogatory Tribunals) around the world. It includes testimonies of those who knew Father Peyton as well as all documents either about his sacramental life or documents he authored.
- **November, 2010 –** Diocese of Albany – A Tribunal to conduct the Diocesan Inquiry of the possible medical miracle attributed to Servant of God Patrick Peyton was formed. The Opening Session was presided over by His Excellency, Howard J. Hubbard, Bishop of Albany and Tribunal members were sworn in.
- **June, 2011 –** Diocese of Albany – Closing Liturgy for the Tribunal formed for the review of a possible medical miracle attributed to the intercession of Servant of God Patrick Peyton.
- **April, 2012 -** The "Acts" filed in July, 2010, by the Baltimore Tribunal, were declared "Juridically Valid," which means the documentation was prepared correctly and accepted into the record.
- **December, 2014 -** A summary of the 6,000 pages (The "Acts") from the Baltimore Tribunal was completed by the Postulator, Dr. Ambrosi. This document, called a *Positio* (or Position Document), is a 1,300 page summary of Father Peyton's life and ministry. This is the primary source for the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to determine if Father Peyton lived a life of heroic virtue and sanctity of life.
- **April, 2015:** Father Willy Raymond, C.S.C., President of Holy Cross Family Ministries; Father David S. Marcham, Vice Postulator; and Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Archbishop of Manila, Philippines, presented the *Positio* to Cardinal Angelo Amato, S.D.B., Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.
- **June, 2017:** During our Annual Anniversary Mass at the Father Peyton Center (N. Easton, MA, USA) Bishop da Cunha of the Fall River Diocese shared the news that the Theological Congress for the Congregation for the Causes of Saints has voted in favor of Father Peyton's Cause moving forward. By their vote they recognized what so many people around the world have come to know through personal encounter, study and prayer: that Father Peyton lived a life of heroic virtue and holiness. We are pleased to receive this notice as we celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Father Peyton's death (June 3, 1992) and the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Family Rosary (1942). Please continue to keep Father Peyton's Cause in your prayers. Let us pray for a "Saint for Families."
- **December, 2017:** On Monday, December 18, 2017, Pope Francis received His Eminence Cardinal Angelo Amato, S.D.B., Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, and authorized the Congregation to promulgate the decree recognizing the heroic virtues of Father Patrick Peyton, a priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross, thus recognizing him as Venerable by the Roman Catholic Church.

Note, the *Positio* on the life, virtues and reputation of holiness of Father Peyton had previously been discussed and approved by a panel of nine theologians and more recently by a group of 15 Cardinals and Archbishops who voted affirmatively to recognize his heroic virtues. The *Positio* refers to the volume containing the evidence that was collected from witness testimonies and supporting documents during inquiries carried out by special tribunals in several dioceses.

- *NEXT: Please continue to pray for Father Peyton's cause to move along favorably to "Blessed."*

**Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C.  
Founder of Holy Cross Family Ministries  
Priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross  
(1909-1992)**

***"The Family That Prays Together Stays Together."*  
Venerable Patrick Peyton**