



Congregation for the Causes of Saints

The Congregation for the Causes of Saints is the organ of the Church invested with the responsibility and power to inform the world as to which people God has made Blessed or Saints.

Pope Adam Paul significantly changed the process early in his Papacy; among the changes was the reinstatement of the office of Promotor, which is frequently referred to by laypeople as the Devil's Advocate.

Structure and Procedure

The Congregation for the Causes of Saints has five members. One of the five is the chair of the Congregation; he is responsible for scheduling meetings and has the power to break ties on administrative matters (e.g. anything other than Beatifying or Canonizing people).

Should a member die or resign his position, new members can be installed by a majority vote of the remaining members¹. New members must of course be members of the Church (a faith that has Reconciled with the Church counts, but should a faith stop being Reconciled, any members of that faith is counted in no votes and should presumably resign their position.) Should the position of chair be vacant, a member can be installed as chair by a majority vote of the members. A member can be removed from the Congregation by a unanimous vote of all of the other members.

A majority vote of the members of the Congregation can declare it to be in session, regardless of the chair's scheduling.

Relators and Promotors

Each Blessed or Saint candidate must be assigned a Relator by the Congregation before the evidence can be properly examined. A candidate's Relator is responsible for assembling evidence, witnesses, and argument in favor of the proposition that the candidate is in fact Blessed or a Saint. Relators are assigned by majority vote, and are generally members of the Congregation.

In order for a Saint candidate to be considered by the Congregation, a Promotor of the Faith must be assigned to them. The candidate's Promotor must be of the Congregation, and is assigned by majority vote. It is the responsibility of a candidate's Promotor to assemble evidence, witnesses, and argument in opposition to the proposition that the candidate is in fact a Saint.

Miracles and the Opposition

There are two kinds of supernatural events that manifest around those who might be Blessed or Saints.

The first is Miracles, which are manifestations of Divine power. The second is the Opposition's testing of the individual. It is

¹New members should see the GMs to acquire the relevant ability cards.

sometimes difficult to distinguish the two, or to determine if the individual resisted the Opposition in a test, as the impact of a manifestation of supernatural power upon the world as a whole is difficult for mortals to comprehend.

In either case, these events frequently mark those involved in them. Anyone with a nonzero Sigma stat has been so marked. You should have an ability card for detecting nonzero Sigma stats.

An investigation by the Congregation as a whole can determine more information about the event. One of the effects of being marked by such an event is that the individual acquires an ability that is either divinely inspired or inspired by the Opposition. (You should also have an ability card for use when the Congregation as a whole is examining a witness.) The alignment of the ability card indicates something of the role that the individual had in the event, but does not in and of itself indicate the nature of the event **or** the goodness of the person carrying it.

For example, a good woman may find herself to have the “Silver-Tongued Devil” ability card after innocently (and vainly) trying to talk a Saint out of martyrdom.

Note that miracles associated with a Saint or Blessed can occur before or after the person’s death.

Martyrdom

A martyr is someone who died for their faith. Early martyrs in the Church were executed due to their refusal to renounce Christianity, but many other forms of martyrdom exist.

For purposes of Beatification and Canonization, dying as a martyr counts as a miracle.

Beatification

An individual can be declared Blessed if all of the following hold:

- The individual is dead.
- God performed a miracle through the individual or as a result of the individual’s intercession (such as as a result of prayer to the individual). Note that martyrdom can obviate this.
- The individual was a member of the Church (or reconciled faith).

To declare someone Blessed requires three of the Congregation to vote in favor of the proposition. Traditionally, the Pope announces this, but the Papal announcement is not required.

It is the responsibility of the Congregation to determine if the relevant conditions hold.

Canonization

An individual can be declared to be a Saint if all of the following hold:

- The individual has been beatified.
- The individual has had a Promotor assigned to their case, and the Promotor has had a reasonable amount of time to gather evidence.
- God has performed at least three miracles through or as a result of intercession by the individual. The number of required miracles is increased by one for each time the Opposition successfully tempted the individual.

The Congregation should hear the evidence and arguments presented by the Relator and Promotor before voting. Neither of an individual's Relator nor the individual's Promotor may cast votes on the Canonization. Two votes (of the remaining three) are required to Canonize an individual.

Canonization **must** be announced by the Pope; and an individual is not Canonized until this has occurred.

Papal Override

Any action of the Congregation can be vetoed by the Pope, should one exist at the time of the action.