

The Cause of Canonization

Ordinary Public Consistory for voting on various Causes of Canonization (February 26, 2002)

On February 26, His Holiness John Paul II presided over an Ordinary Public Consistory of Cardinals to approve the canonization of various persons being considered for sainthood, including Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer. The ceremony took place in the Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace.

After an introductory prayer by the Holy Father, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints read a brief report on each one's life and miracles. With the unanimous agreement of the Cardinals as representatives of the universal Church, the Roman Pontiff declared that they could proceed with the canonization of those presented. Then the Pope announced the dates for the canonizations and imparted his blessing.

The dates established for the canonization ceremonies were May 19 for Alonso de Orozco, Ignazio da Santhia, Umile da Bisignano, Paulina do Coração Agonizante de Jesus and Benedetta Cambiagio Frassinello; June 16 for Padre Pio de Pietralcina; July 30 for Juan Diego; July 31 for Pedro de San José Betancourt; and October 6 for Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer.

Publication of the Book *Cures: Through the Intercession of Josemaría Escrivá*

The Postulator of the Cause of Josemaría Escrivá, Msgr. Flavio Capucci, is the author of *Cures: Through the Intercession of Josemaría Escrivá*, a book that describes 18 extraordinary cures. It has been published in Costa Rica, France, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Spain and the United States.

All the cures included in the book were declared scientifically inexplicable by the doctors involved. Two of them have been officially approved as miracles by the corresponding canonical process.

The book begins with the story of Sister Concepción Boullón, a Carmelite of Charity who in 1976 was cured of a tumor that disappeared instantaneously and permanently. As the author explains, "this cure has a special importance because, after a rigorous and detailed study, its miraculous character was recognized by the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints, which led to the beatification of the founder of Opus Dei."

The testimonies collected in the book show the great variety of people who invoke Blessed Josemaría's intercession and obtain favors from God: a

boy of sixteen recovered his eyesight completely in a short time; a religious sister was cured of a deafness; a sterile woman conceived in a natural way and gave birth to a son; an old man of 87 suffered a cardio-respiratory stoppage which affected his brain; although the clinical symptoms indicated certain death, at the end of eleven hours he awoke from the coma and recovered mental clarity.

The last of the cures described in this volume is that of Doctor Manuel Nevado Rey, which, after being officially recognized as miraculous by decree of the Roman Pontiff, opened

the doors to the canonization of Blessed Josemaría.

Msgr. Capucci offers a brief summary of each of the cures. "These are exact descriptions," he notes, "but we have deliberately avoided overly technical terms so that they can be understood by the average reader. For obvious reasons of respect for privacy, the names of those involved have been altered in accord with the usual practice in publishing information on clinical cases in medical reviews. An exception has been made for the description of cures that are already publicly known."

On the centennial of his birth

Eucharistic Celebrations

The centennial of Blessed Josemaría's birth on January 9th was the occasion for numerous commemorative events throughout the world. Among the great variety of events organized, liturgical celebrations held the place of honor, often presided over by the local bishop.

In Rome, a solemn concelebrated Mass on January 9 in the Basilica of St. Eugene was presided over by Cardinal Camillo Ruini, the Vicar of His Holiness for the diocese of Rome. Cardinals Lopez Trujillo, Poupard, Re, Saraiva and Sebastiani, along with the Prelate of Opus Dei and seven other bishops con-

celebrated. Cardinal Daoud and other cardinals and bishops also attended. In his homily Cardinal Ruini stressed the importance of the founder of Opus Dei and his message for the Church.

In the Viennese Cathedral of Saint Stephen, Cardinal Schönborn concelebrated with two other bishops before a congregation of about three thousand. In other cities of Austria such as Innsbruck, Graz and Salzburg, the respective bishops or archbishops celebrated Mass in honor of Blessed Josemaría.

In the Czech Republic there were Masses in Prague, Brno and other cities. The same was true throughout the rest of Europe, where many bishops celebrated Mass for the faithful in