



POPE JOHN XXIII

Magazine Report: Beatification Near For John XXIII

Rome (NC) — The process for the beatification of Pope John XXIII is entering its final phase and could be completed during the 1983-84 Holy Year of Redemption, an Italian magazine reported.

The report, which was neither confirmed nor denied by officials at the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes, was contained in an article in an Italian weekly magazine, Oggi.

The article was the first part of a three-part series and was written by Gian Carlo Zizola, a well-known journalist covering Vatican affairs, who has written a biography of the late pope.

The article was based on a study of a 20,000-page "secret dossier" concerning the beatification process, and on interviews with some of the key participants, the magazine said.

Franciscan Father Antonio Cairoli, postulator of the beatification cause, said the documentation represents "an extremely important mass of data, for understanding not only the personal history of Pope John, but also the history of the Church throughout more than half a century."

Pope John, who was born Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, died on June 8, 1963, after less than five years as pope.

"The cause of Pope John could be accelerated, and even be completed during the Holy Year," scheduled

to end April 22, 1984. Oggi said.

The magazine said two miracles credited to the intercession of Pope John have been accepted as valid by archdiocesan beatification tribunals, although the report will not be forwarded to the Vatican until after discussions by a Cardinals' commission on the late pope's "heroic virtues" are completed.

One miracle involves Sister Caterina Capitani, 39, superior of a group of nuns in a state hospital Benevento, Italy, who said she was cured of a critical stomach illness in 1967 after praying to Pope John.

Sister Capitani, a member of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul, said Pope John appeared at her bedside in a vision to assure her that she would not die.

Dr. Giuseppe Zannini, head of the surgery department at Mariana Di Napoli Hospital in Piedigrotta, Italy, and the physician who treated Sister Capitani in 1967, said there was no medical explanation for the cure.

"I certainly didn't heal her," he said. "Science is powerless to explain such a case."

The article did not describe the second miracle, but Oggi said in a promotional item for the series' second article that it involves a person who began to walk after being paralyzed for 30 years.

The NEW Hatch Amendment:

A right to abortion is not secured in the Constitution

Washington (NC) — A Senate subcommittee has approved a modified version of the Hatch Amendment on abortion that supporters say would reverse the Supreme Court's abortion decisions and return the abortion issue to the states.

After only 10 minutes of discussion March 24, the subcommittee chaired by the original sponsor of the Hatch Amendment, Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, voted to

accept the modifications in the amendment proposed by Sen. Thomas Eagleton of Missouri.

The new 10-word Hatch-Eagleton Amendment simply reads, "A right to abortion is not secured in the Constitution."

Dropped from the original Hatch Amendment was a second sentence that would give the federal and state governments concurrent

power to regulate abortion.

Eagleton, in urging the modification at a Senate hearing Feb. 18, said an amendment containing just the first 10 words of the original Hatch proposal could gain the greatest number of Senate votes while still reversing the high court on abortion.

The U.S. bishops, who during the last Congress voted to break precedent and

endorse the specific wording of the Hatch Amendment, have taken no position on the new Hatch-Eagleton proposal.

The March 24 action means that the Hatch-Eagleton Amendment now goes to the full Senate Judiciary Committee, which also is expected to approve it. Then the amendment is expected to be debated on the floor of the Senate sometime this Spring.

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New Diocese Formed

Washington — Pope John Paul II established the new diocese of Lubbock, Tex., and named Msgr. Michael Sheehan, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Grand Prairie, Tex., as its first bishop. Bishop-designate Sheehan, 43, is former assistant general secretary of the NCCB-USCC. The pontiff also named Father Robert H. Brom, 44, of Winona, Minn., to be bishop of Duluth, Minn.; Msgrs. William Levada, 46, and Donald Montrose, 59, auxiliary bishops of Los Angeles; and three auxiliaries for the military ordinariate — Msgr. Lawrence Kenney, 52, secretary of Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York; Father Francis Roque, 54, a military chaplain; and Msgr. Joseph T. Dimino, 60, chancellor of the military ordinariate.

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