



# Catholic Courier

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## Diocese will soon be able to boast of saintly man

By Father Robert F. McNamara  
Guest contributor

So far, no diocesan Catholic has been canonized a saint — or even declared "blessed." But when Pope John Paul II, on Jan. 29, 1995, beatifies the Passionist seminarian known as Venerable Grimoaldo of the Purification he will give us a "saint" with strong ties to Rochester.

This is true even though Grimoaldo never visited America. He spent his entire short life (1883-1902) in Italy. His younger sister Maria Vincenzina Panella (1893-1973) forged the first bond. She and her husband Francesco Antonio (1892-1966) immigrated to Rochester, temporarily in 1912 and permanently seven years later. Then in 1920 the Panellas welcomed Vincenzina's widowed mother, Cecilia Ruscio Santamaria (1855-1934), who would pass her declining years as their guest. Both Grimoaldo's

parents and the Panellas were members of the Confraternita del Santissimo Sacramento, a group of lay Catholics who met to attend the death of a house.

When he died, the Confraternita Grimoaldo.

The sons of Pietro Paolo and Cecilia Santamaria, Grimoaldo Santamario was born on May 4, 1883, in the town of Roncole, located about 45 miles southeast of Rome. Baptized Ferdinando, he was the first-born of five children, of whom Vincenzina ("Jenny") was the fourth-born. Pietro Paolo (1858-1914) was a self-employed rope-maker. He and his wife were known as "good people" and practical Catholics. Mamma Cecilia, a natural housekeeper, gave highest priority to instructing her little ones.

By leading the family in prayer, she was able to bring to the attention of the parish.

Who was her best disciple? Grimoaldo, bright, thoughtful and reasonable, but from first communion on he developed a predilection for prayer, fasting and piety, to the unworldly amazement of all. After his birth,

the family considered him as the one who would carry on the family name.

Grimoaldo's mother had a special affection for him. He must have been a very good child.

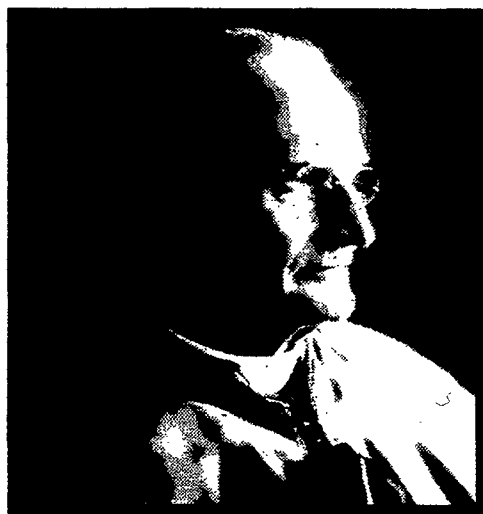
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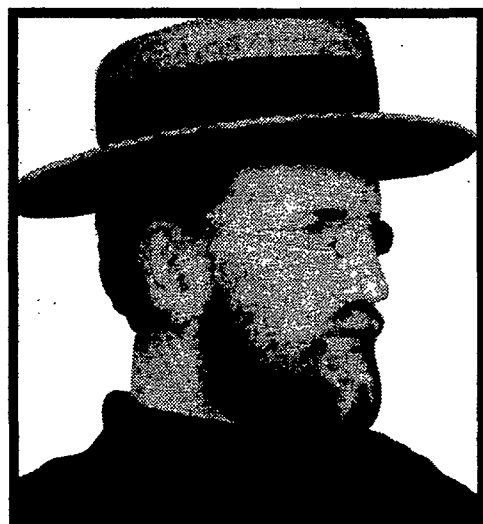
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Father Nelson Henry Baker



Father Damien de Veuster



Dorothy Day

Milwaukee Journal

# Almost Saints?

## Canonization takes more than holiness

Frank Donovan of the Catholic Worker community at Mary's House in New York City takes a matter-of-fact approach to talk about canonizing Catholic Worker co-founder, Dorothy Day.

"We're not involved with it as such, because we believe we should be doing what Dorothy thought we should be doing — taking care of the poor," remarked Donovan, who knew Day before her death in 1980. "We're not into formal procedures of that sort."

Indeed, despite Day being regularly touted as among potential candidates for canonization, no one — neither the Catholic Workers, nor her family, nor the New York archdiocese — has been getting "into formal procedures of that sort" on her behalf.

The only effort is an informal one by the staff of the Chicago-based *Salt of the Earth* magazine — formerly

known as *Salt*. Staff members have been collecting letters and information about Day, but that effort has been carried on as time permits between editorial duties.

Should a formal cause be launched — and under church law, only the Archdiocese of New York may undertake an official investigation of the cause — Day would join the likes of Father Nelson Henry Baker, the Buffalo native who created a network of homes and institutions to help children; Father Damien de Veuster, S.S.C.C., who served people afflicted with Hansen's disease — or leprosy — on Molokai in Hawaii, and who is scheduled to be beatified next May; and Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, the Mohawk woman rejected by some of her own family and tribe because of her conversion, who was beatified in 1980.

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By Lee Strong, Senior staff writer

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