

WORLD & NATION

Pope waives wait for Mother Teresa

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — After an outpouring of requests from all over the world, Pope John Paul II has lifted the standard five-year waiting period for investigating the sainthood cause of Mother Teresa.

"Because the response was so great and insistent, the Holy Father decided to go ahead," Father Ciro Benedettini, a Vatican spokesman, said March 1. The move allows a diocesan investigation into Mother Teresa's life to begin immediately.

In Calcutta, where Mother Teresa ran a home for the dying and where her cause is being initiated, Archbishop Henry D'Souza said he had been informed of the waiver by the Vatican's Congregation for Sainthood Causes.

Church sources in Rome said it was apparently the first time such an exception had been made.

In the United States, the president of the bishops' conference, Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, said the U.S. bishops "rejoice that the process of her canonization can begin even while people have vivid memories of all that she meant to every strata of society in virtually every nation of the world."

Shortly after Mother Teresa's death in September 1997, the pope said that he thought it was "necessary to follow the normal way" of deliberating sainthood causes, even in the case of Mother Teresa, whom many had considered a living saint. The rules foresaw an interval of five years before any official consideration. But the pope changed his mind over the last 18 months, in part because people

from many countries and walks of life wrote to the Vatican to support sainthood for Mother Teresa, according to Vatican officials.

"There was just a massive, spontaneous response on the part of all sorts of people at every level of society, both inside and outside the church. There has been no other case like it," said one informed church official, who asked not to be named.

Vatican sources noted that the pope, as the church's supreme legislator, can always decide to waive a rule like this. One of the reasons he did so in this case was that the rule seemed superfluous for Mother Teresa.

The waiting period was established as a norm to make sure there is a true reputation of holiness before the church begins working on a sainthood cause, but Mother Teresa was someone who "had a reputation for holiness throughout her life," said one official.

Even with the dispensation, the road to "official" sainthood may not be short for Mother Teresa, because local church experts and Vatican officials will have to pore over the documentation and testimony available. Because Mother Teresa was an international figure who founded a religious order and established centers and hospitals all over the globe, there is a lot of evidence to consider.

The sainthood process involves several steps:

- Declaration of a person's heroic virtues.

- Beatification, in which a person is declared "blessed" following certification of a miracle attributed to the person's inter-



CNS

Pope John Paul II has lifted the standard five-year waiting period for investigating the sainthood cause of Mother Teresa. A Vatican spokesman said the rule was lifted after worldwide petitions to proceed with her cause. According to sources in Rome, it is the first time such an exception has been made.

cession.

- Canonization as a saint, after another certified miracle, in which the church declares that the person's life is worthy of honor and imitation by all the faithful.

Since her death, Mother Teresa has been cited several times by Pope John Paul as a model of holiness in action. In a talk Feb. 27 to medical and church experts on the topic of dying, the pope said Mother Teresa, along with many saints through the centuries, had given the kind of care and attention needed by people in the last phase of life.

NCCB head: Iraq sanctions are 'immoral'

By Thomas Kielbasa
Catholic News Service

HOUSTON — The head of the U.S. bishops' conference said the sanctions against Iraq are immoral, like the decades-old U.S. trade embargo with Cuba, but they are more deadly than those affecting Cuba.

"To use sanctions as a political tool is wrong, cruel and immoral," said Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. No just reason exists to continue the sanctions against Iraq, he added.

He made the comments as part of a panel of religious and political leaders Feb. 22 at Rice University in Houston.

The program is part of a nationwide tour of speakers organized by Pax Christi USA, a Catholic peace movement, and several other organizations to focus on what the groups see as the dangers to the Iraqi people of the ongoing sanctions.

Bishop Fiorenza said many Americans think support of U.S. sanctions against Iraq is patriotic and consider even moral opposition to sanctions to be unpatriotic.

"We don't want to appear unpatriotic," he said. "But I think there are times when we have to take that risk in order to bring the moral question home and bring greater force to bear on our political leaders so that they can change a policy that is wrong, cruel and immoral."

Bishop Fiorenza cited Pope John Paul II's statement that "no one can remain indifferent to the tragedy of the Iraqi people. War has never been and never will be an appropriate way to solve problems between nations."

.....Dining Guide.....

BOSDYK'S
Restaurant & Cocktail Lounge

LENTEN SPECIALS

Fresh broiled or fried fish lunches and dinners served daily!

SERVING SUNDAY THRU THURSDAY UNTIL 11:00 PM
FRIDAY & SATURDAY UNTIL MIDNIGHT

430 Spencerport Road
(Corner of Long Pond)
716-247-7690

What is the best way to start your day?
With Good Food
And Good Friends

Rogers House
RESTAURANT

Lenten Fish Frys
Every Friday 4-8 pm
Great Vegetarian Specials

Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday for breakfast & lunch • 232-2749
271 Central Park
Near the Historic Public Market

MR. DOMINICS AT THE LAKE
Fine Italian Cuisine

Delicious appetizers, soups, veal dishes, vegetarian, chicken, fish, and homemade pasta

10% Senior Discount
Serving Lunch & Dinner

4699 Lake Ave
(716) 865-4630

Romantic Italy
Deluxe, All Inclusive • 15 nights
Escorted • May 11 - May 27, 1999

USA Beatification
Celebration of Father Pio
Barto, PA • April 30 - May 3, 1999

CALL FOR ITINERARY AND DETAILS
High Class Tours & Travel
(716) 247-9032 • (888) 405-9032
Fax 247-4073 • E-mail: highct5429@aol.com

DataEntry
Services of Rochester

ANY FORM OF DATA ENTRY:
• Tracking • Billing • Inventory
• Data Accumulation

Cost Effective and Confidential
Nancy Matteo • 247-6997

.....Dining Guide.....

March is
German Month

LUNCH SPECIALS
Hungarian Goulash
Braised beef and sauteed onions served over egg noodles \$6.95
Knockwurst
German sausage served with sauerkraut \$5.95

DINNER SPECIALS
Wiener Schnitzel
Batter dipped, lightly breaded veal served with red cabbage and potato pancakes \$15.95
Sauerbraten
Marinated beef served with red cabbage and potato pancakes \$14.95

LAMPLIGHTER
831 Fetzner Rd. • 225-2500
Corner of Maiden Lane, Down the road from the Greece Marriott

Lunch: Tuesday-Friday • Dinner: Monday-Saturday
We have private accommodations for up to 50 people for parties and banquets.