



“What is a Saint?”

Below is an excerpt from our BONUS TRACK “What’s a Saint?” found on ***Glory Stories volume 4***. Get it at HolyHeroes.com to enjoy the entire track plus the two inspiring stories of Saint Teresa of Calcutta and Saint Faustina Kowalska.

A Saint is someone who has died, and whom we are certain is in Heaven with God.

What’s so good about being a saint?

First, the person is perfectly happy being in Heaven with God - and that’s what we all want, right? Getting to heaven is the only real goal of our life on earth. And second, saints can help other people get to heaven, too. We can imitate their lives and ask them to pray for us, since their prayers are so powerful, being so closely united with God.

But...how do we know someone is a saint?

We know someone is a saint when, after a long, careful process of investigation, the Catholic Church declares them so—that’s called “canonization.”

How does The Church make someone a saint?

The Church doesn’t make someone a saint, God does. But since The Church is protected by the Holy Spirit from teaching anything false about our Faith, when the Pope announces that a person is a saint, we know it’s true!

But how does it work?

Well, the process, or “*cause*” is started, or “*opened*” by the person’s Bishop asking Rome for permission to study that person’s life. The Church is looking to see if this person was more than just “*good*”, but lived a life of “*Heroic Virtue*.” If Rome thinks the cause is “worthy”, and grants permission, everything the person ever said or wrote is then carefully examined, and people who knew him or her are called upon to give testimony – kind of like a trial to prove “holiness”. Throughout this investigation--which can take years--we are allowed to call the person by a special name: “*Servant of God*”.



What happens next?

After that's done, and it appears that the person had "a proven reputation for holiness", the cause is then sent to a special office at the Vatican called, "The Congregation for the Causes of Saints" for approval to send the cause to the Pope for final review. After that, if the Holy Father recognizes the person's "Heroic Virtue", we can then call that person "*Venerable*."

So then they're a saint, right?

Not so fast. At this point, the faithful are encouraged to pray for the person's "intercession", or *help*.....and.... we *wait*.

For what?

For a miracle. Up until this point the whole process has been the work of men and women. Now we look for God Himself to give us a sign that the person is in Heaven. Remember the two aspects we look for in a saint: a life on earth worthy of imitation and being able to pray for us in Heaven?

Well, up to this point the process has focused on the "life on earth" part, but now the process is focused on the second part: Heaven. We ask for help from the "Venerable" person that can only come from God—a true miracle. When that first miracle occurs and it's proven to be impossible scientifically, The Church will "*beatify*" the person, and we can then call him or her "Blessed."

They're still not a saint?

Remember: The Catholic Church doesn't make someone a saint, God does. If God wants us to know the person is in Heaven with Him, The Church waits for one more miracle to occur, so she can be absolutely certain. Only then is the person officially "*canonized*" by the Pope and declared a saint!

To learn about the miracle that opened the door for Saint Teresa of Calcutta's canonization, get ***Glory Stories volume 4*** and listen to the entire bonus track!

For a more detailed review of the canonization process, go here:

<https://www.ewtn.com/johnpaul2/cause/process.asp>