

Status of the Cause of the Servant of God Sister M. Consolata Betrone

**Article of the Postulator, Mr. Emilio Artiglieri,
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With deep emotion I introduce myself as the new Postulator for the cause of beatification and canonization of the Servant of God Sister M. Consolata Betrone, so constituted with the mandate of the Convent of the Sacred Heart of the Poor Clares in Moncalieri. Each cause of canonization has an essentially ecclesial dimension, not only - as we shall see - under procedural aspect, but also in its assumptions: the canonized holiness wants to be a message for the whole Church, a message of hope for those who confidently invoke the intercession of Servant of God (later the Blessed and Holy), and of prophecy, in the sense that in the life and doctrine of who is raised to the altars we do find not new truths, but the confirmation of the truths of faith contained in the Divine Revelation and a model of authentic Christian life, of which concrete possibility is done historical evidence. In this case it is as if the Nuns Capuchin Poor Clares would like to donate to the whole Church, and indeed to all men of good will, the extraordinary richness of the religious and mystic experience of Sister M. Consolata.

My emotion becomes gratitude towards those who preceded me in the role of Postulator and bore up to the beginning of this years the burden of the various obligations, in particular Father Paolo Lombardo, OFM Postulator of Roman province.

As you know, each cause of canonization must have an "actor", which means a promoter of the cause, who is the physical or, more commonly, legal person, who promotes it and assumes the obligation to meet its commitments. In this case, actor of the cause is the Monastery to which Sister M. Consolata belonged. The Postulator is the individual (priest, religious or secular) acting in name of the actor, and is legally appointed by the latter and approved, at the diocesan phase, by the Bishop, and in the next step, at the Congregation of the Causes of Saints, by the same Department. The approval that the Postulator needs, is a further sign of the ecclesial, public character, of the cause of canonization.

The Basic Law for the Causes of Saints is now contained in the Apostolic Constitution *Divinus perfectionis Magister* of January 25, 1983, which gave a new approach to the whole matter, responding to three main requirements.

The first is a greater involvement of the diocesan bishops in the causes of canonization, by giving them the responsibility for the collection of evidence, that they then lead with own power.

We also wanted to raise the critical level of the study of the causes, giving the Congregation suitable tools for this purpose.

Finally, the third goal was to streamline the process, freeing it by unnecessary formalities.

Every cause now passes through three stages:

- 1. The diocesan inquiry**, which has the aim to collect all the evidence related to life, activities, death, the fame of holiness and the foundation of this reputation, that the heroic virtues of the Servant of God;
- 2. the study** at the Congregation of the documentary and testimonial material, and the preparation of a comprehensive "*Positio*" under the guidance of qualified scholars;
- 3. the discussion** in the theological, first by the Consultants, under the direction of the Promoter of the Faith (prelate theologian) and then the Cardinals and Bishops, members of the Department. Parallel is the exam of the alleged miracles. In the tradition of the Church, miracles in canonization serve as confirmation from the High that the human judgment on holiness life of the Servant of God

is not wrong, is like a “seal of God”. From Holy Year 1975, it has begun to dispense from the second miracle for beatification, and later for the canonization; so we arrived at the current practice which requires a miracle for the beatification duly adopted, and for the canonization another miracle occurred after beatification and duly adopted. Also for the exam of the alleged miracles, we distinguish two basic phases: the diocesan level, on evidence collection, and the “roman” level, at the Congregation, of study, both from the medical point of view, both from the theological point of view.

I think we should now point out, in light of what has been mentioned, which is the position of the cause of Sister M. Consolata. On March 10, 1995 the Holy See had sent the clearance, which gave start in Turin to the diocesan inquiry, consisting of the collection of testimonies and documents, as well as the acquisition of appropriate relations by experts. All this material was then sent to the Congregation of the Causes of Saints, that, on April 7, 2000, issued the decree that sanctioned the regularity of the diocesan inquiry, that is the strict observance of legal rules. At this point, the cause was entrusted to a supervisor, appointed on February 9, 2001, in the person of Father Daniel Ols OP. The supervisor's task is to study the cause and, together with the external consultant, attend to the drawing of the relative *Positio* on the holiness of the life of the candidate to canonization.

The supervisor will not approve, however, the printing of *Positio* before all the gaps have been filled and all the difficulties overcome.

The cause of Sister M. Consolata is just at this point, that is, the supervisor is studying the material of the *Positio* and he will see if needed additions and clarifications with regard to what is already accomplished. Remember that the workload for each supervisor is remarkable, so the times may seem quite long: just for the public, ecclesial nature of the cause, that can come to engage with the canonization, even the Pope infallibility, we understand what must be, even in conscience, the duty of an examination as more serious and thorough as possible.

And the miracle? Many reports of graces and favors come since a long time to the Monastery: in particular, is now under investigation a case of healing that seems, even in the opinion of the specialists interviewed, to have all the characteristics required to be classified as naturally unexplainable. In short time, could start the relative investigation in the diocese in which the event is happened.

Let's continue, however, to turn with confidence to Sister M. Consolata, as we prepare inwardly to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the transfer of Her mortal remains in the Convent of the Sacred Heart. We ask her intercession in order that is confirmed even more the blessing of God and we can feel for diseases of the body, but - dare I say - especially those of the spirit, the benefit of her consolation.