



The

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Commemorative section

This special section provides expanded coverage of the Oct. 25 beatification of Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin by Pope John Paul II. It includes historical photos and coverage of the beatification and related events.

Serving the Church in Central and Southern Indiana Since 1960

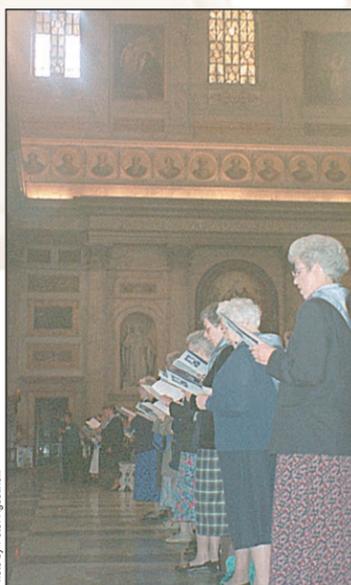
November 6, 1998

Blessed Mother Theodore: 'a model of the best of womanhood'



Blessed Mother Theodore
1798 - 1856

Photo courtesy Sisters of Providence Archives



Left: Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, along with friends and benefactors, celebrate the beatification of Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin at an Oct. 26 Mass of thanksgiving at the basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome. Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein presided at the Mass, and Father Bernard Head, former chaplain of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods Convent and Motherhouse, delivered the homily.

Photo by Peter Agostinelli

Below: Sisters of Providence and others gather Oct. 25 in the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods to celebrate the beatification. The liturgy followed Mother Theodore's beatification by Pope John Paul II.



Photo by John Stanley

'We present her ... as blessed'

(The following is Pope John Paul II's text delivered at the beatification ceremonies of Mother Theodore Guérin.)

"Mother Theodore Guérin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, holy woman of God, lived a life of extraordinary love. Her love for God totally filled her being. From that love came her deep caring for people in their sufferings and in their joys. Her love embraced even those who caused her pain and anguish. She transformed the hardest hearts by her inspired words. Mother Theodore was truly a humble woman of God. While she possessed all the gifts necessary for leadership and used them brilliantly, she

*Pope says
Mother Theodore's life
was 'perfect blend of
humanness and
holiness'*

was always humble and gave God credit for all the good she did.

"Her trust in her provident God was ever present in her life. In founding the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, she called upon God's providence in all things. In her

words, "Put yourself gently into the hands of Providence," she recognized that all she did was in God's loving care.

"In the midst of trial and suffering, she embraced her crosses with full confidence that God would provide. She refused God no sacrifice that he asked of her.

"Her life was a perfect blend of humanness and holiness. She was fully human, fully alive, yet her deep spirituality was woven visibly through the very fabric of her life.

"This woman, Mother Theodore Guérin, is indeed a woman for our time. She is a model of the best of womanhood. We present her to the world this day as blessed." †

Mother Theodore knew as a child she wanted to be a nun

At age 25, Anne-Thérèse Guérin joined the Providence order at Ruillé-sur-Loir, France

“What strength the soul draws from prayer! In the midst of a storm, how sweet is the calm it finds in the heart of Jesus.”

These words, written by Mother Theodore Guérin after surviving a violent storm at sea, perhaps best exemplify her life and ministry. Mother Theodore drew strength from prayer.

Mother Theodore—Anne-Thérèse Guérin—was born Oct. 2, 1798, in the village of Étables in France.

Her devotion to God and to the Roman Catholic Church began when she was a young child. She was allowed to receive her First Communion at the age of 10 and, at that time, told the parish priest that someday she would be a nun.

The child Anne-Thérèse was educated by her mother, Isabelle Guérin, who centered lessons on religion and Scripture. Anne-Thérèse’s father, Laurent, who served in Napoleon’s navy, was away from home for years at a time.

When Anne-Thérèse was 15 years old, her father was murdered by bandits as he traveled home to visit his family. The loss of her husband nearly overwhelmed Isabelle and, for many years, Anne-Thérèse accepted the responsibility of caring for her mother and her young sister, as well as the family’s home and garden.

Anne-Thérèse was nearly 25 years old when she entered the Sisters of Providence of Ruillé-sur-Loir, France, a young community of women religious who served as teachers and cared for the sick poor.

While teaching and caring for the sick in France, Mother Theodore, then known as Sister St. Theodore, was asked to lead a small missionary band of Sisters of Providence to the United States of America to establish a motherhouse and novitiate, to open schools and to share the love of God with pioneers in the Diocese of Vincennes in the state of Indiana.

Humble and prone to feelings of unworthiness, Mother Theodore could not imagine that she was suitable for such a mission. In addition, her health was fragile, and she was able to consume only soft, bland foods and liquids. Her physical condition added to her doubts about accepting the mission to the United States. Nevertheless, after hours of prayer and lengthy consultations with her superiors, she accepted the mission.

Equipped with little more than a steadfast desire to serve God, Mother Theodore and her five companion sisters arrived at the site of their mission at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., the evening of Oct. 22, 1840, and immediately hastened along a muddy, narrow path to the tiny log cabin that served as the chapel and as the dwelling place for a priest.

There they knelt in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament to thank God for their safe journey and to ask for God’s blessings for the new mission.

Here, on this hilly, ravine-cut, densely forested land, Mother Theodore would establish a motherhouse, a school and a legacy of love, mercy and justice that continues to this day.

Throughout years of sorrow and years of peace, Mother Theodore relied on God’s Providence and her own ingenuity and faith for counsel and guidance.

She urged Sisters of Providence: “Put yourself gently into the hands of Providence.” In letters to France, she stated, “But our hope is in the Providence of God, which has protected us until the present, and which will provide, somehow, for our future needs.”

In the fall of 1840, the mission at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods consisted only of the log cabin chapel and a small frame farmhouse where Mother Theodore, the sisters from France and several postulants lived.

During that first winter, harsh winds blew from the north to rattle the little farmhouse. The sisters were often cold and frequently hungry. But they transformed a porch into a chapel and were comforted by the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in the humble motherhouse.

Mother Theodore said, “With Jesus, what shall we have to fear?”

During the early years at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Mother Theodore encountered numerous trials: prejudice against Catholics and, especially, against Catholic women religious; betrayals; misunderstandings; the separation of the congregation in Indiana from the one in Ruillé; a devastating fire that destroyed an entire harvest, leaving the sisters destitute and hungry; and frequent life-threatening illnesses.

Still she persevered, desiring only that “in all and everywhere may the will of God be done.”

Less than a year after arriving at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Mother Theodore opened the congregation’s first academy, which now is known as Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College.

In 1842, she established schools at Jasper and St. Mary-of-the-Woods Village in Indiana and at St. Francisville, Ill.

By the time of her death on May 14, 1856, Mother Theodore had opened schools in towns throughout Indiana, and the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence was strong, viable and respected.

Mother Theodore is buried in the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. †

The motherhouse of the Sisters of Providence at Ruillé-sur-Loir, France, where Anne Thérèse Guérin entered religious life in 1823.

Upon arrival at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Mother Theodore and her five sister companions immediately went to pray before the Blessed Sacrament in this log cabin chapel, which also served as the residence of the priest.



Photo courtesy Sister Catherine Joseph Wilcox

‘With Jesus, what shall we have to fear?’



Drawing by Sr. Mary Emmanuel Rinke, S.P., courtesy of Sisters of Providence Archives



Photo by Katrina D. Theilman

Mother Theodore's rosary



Photo courtesy Sisters of Providence Office of Congregational Advancement

The farmhouse that the six pioneering sisters and two postulants shared with the Thralls family, the owners, in 1840.



The first academy, which would later grow to become Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, the first Catholic liberal arts college for women in the United States.

Photo courtesy Sisters of Providence Archives

Mother Theodore's memorial in the community's cemetery. A Latin inscription reads, “I sleep, but my heart watches over this house which I have built.”



Photo by John Starkey

The Church of the Immaculate Conception, the conventual church of the motherhouse of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, houses the remains of Blessed Mother Theodore.



Photo by John Starkey

Legacy of Mother Theodore continues today

Wherever Sisters of Providence minister and live, the past, present and future are woven into a colorful and sturdy tapestry of tradition, faith and mission.

The legacy of Mother Theodore Guérin, who founded the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in 1840, is the thread that strengthens and sustains the tapestry.

An image of Sisters of Providence and their influence on people and places where they live and minister becomes visible only by looking at the individual threads and by knowing the congregation’s mission statement.

In all ministries, Sisters of Providence strive “to honor Divine Providence and to further God’s loving plans by devoting themselves to works of love, mercy and justice in service among God’s people.”

In the beginning, led by Mother Theodore, Sisters of

Providence brought opportunities for education and worship to settlers in Indiana. In 1920, six Sisters of Providence represented the first congregation of women religious from the United States to establish a mission in China. In 1948, when the People’s Republic of China began its rule, the sisters moved from China to Taiwan, where several minister today.

During the civil rights movement in the United States, Sisters of Providence ventured to the deep South to teach African-American children. Today, they minister in inner-city schools and parishes as they continue to offer opportunities of hope, education and spiritual growth.

Sisters of Providence seek to end violence, and they seek justice for all people.

Currently, Sisters of Providence minister in 25 states, the District of Columbia, Taiwan and the West Indies in

such fields as education, health care and retirement services, diocesan and parish services and social justice services, with national organizations and other religious communities, and as counselors and spiritual directors. Sisters also minister at the motherhouse in staff and administrative positions.

The congregation maintains three sponsored institutions: Mother Theodore Guérin High School at River Grove, Ill., and Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and Woods Day Care/Preschool, both at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

The congregation’s sponsored ministries include Providence Self-Sufficiency Ministries, serving individuals and families in the communities of New Albany, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods and West Terre Haute, all in Indiana, and others in Chicago. †

New book published on Mother Theodore's life

By William R. Bruns

A new biography of Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin has recently been published by the Office of Congregational Advancement of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

Titled *Mother Theodore Guérin: A Woman for Our Time*, the book was written by Penny Blaker Mitchell. The 175-page paperback has 17 pages of black and white historical photos, including a 1855 daguerreotype (an early photographic process) of Mother Theodore. (See Page W1.)

Called a "popular biography" (as opposed to an academic biography), the book can enjoyably be read in one or two sittings. With just enough detail, it chronicles the life of the foundress of the Sisters of Providence from her birth 200 years ago on Brittany's seacoast in the village of Étables, France, to her death at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, on May 14, 1856.

An epilogue outlines the various steps that have been taken in the 90-year-old "cause" for Mother Theodore's beatification and perhaps eventual sainthood. Included in the epilogue is a detailed account of the 1908 miraculous cure from cancer of Sister Mary Theodosia Mug, S.P.—a result of the intercession of Mother Theodore.

Penny Blaker Mitchell, editorial associate for the Providence Sisters' Office of Congregational Advancement, writes in a clear and engaging style, managing to draw the reader into the trials and triumphs of this 19th century middle-aged French religious who successfully struggled in the Indiana wilderness to establish a congregation of religious women who would meet the needs of the poor, the sick and the uneducated in a rugged pioneer diocese that would eventually become the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Blaker Mitchell reveals Mother Theodore as a complex woman who trustingly abandons her life to Divine Providence while tackling everyday challenges with the wit and pragmatic wisdom of a highly educated Breton.

The subtitle of the book, "A Woman for Our Time," perhaps best captures the essence of the woman who was Mother Theodore Guérin. When she saw a need, she adapted her life and her circumstances to meet the need—always with a great love for and trust in the God she called Providence.

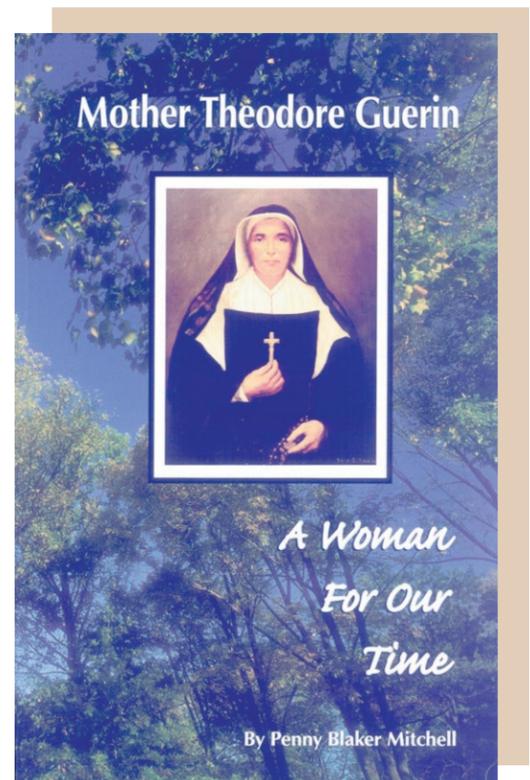
In her introduction, Blaker Mitchell says that Mother Theodore was "an ordinary woman who was able to attain extraordinary accomplishments." And the author makes the point that Mother Theodore, the leader and foundress of a congregation of women religious, was also a "teacher,

administrator, businesswoman, farmer, builder, nurse, care giver, daughter, friend, nurturer of hearts and souls, woman of faith, woman of Providence."

Mother Theodore's life in the 19th century, so filled with everyday worries, joys and cares, was not at all unlike our own lives at the end of the 20th century. She met the challenges facing her by placing her trust in God. All in all, Mother Theodore Guérin is a role model, a hero, for all of us—women and men—today. If only we could consistently follow her example.

This book is highly recommended for anyone wanting to learn more about this newest *Beata* of our Church who is truly "a woman for our time."

(*Mother Theodore Guérin: A Woman for Our Time* sells for \$10 plus tax and shipping and is available from The Gift Shop, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana 47876, 812-535-3131, ext. 143. A children's book and audiotape, *The Story of Anne-Thérèse*, is also available from The Gift Shop for \$8.95 plus tax and shipping. It was written by Providence Sisters Brendan Harvey and Beatrice Hoberg and illustrated by



Providence Sister Adelaide Ortelge. It tells the story of Mother Theodore's childhood in France.) †

Cause for beatification was initiated in 1909

Mother Theodore Guérin—whose life was characterized by constant faith in God's Providence and unwavering devotion to prayer, to the Eucharist and to Mary, the mother of Jesus—founded the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in 1840.

During the nearly 16 years of her life in the United States, Mother Theodore, who was born in 1798 and died in 1856, established Catholic schools throughout the state of Indiana and, in the process, was loved and respected by people of all religions.

Recognizing the love and holiness that permeated Mother Theodore's actions, the people considered her to possess saintly qualities. Mother Theodore's deep and everlasting spirituality was reflected in her eyes, in her gentle smile, in her presence, in her every action, word and deed.

The cause for the beatification and canonization of Mother Theodore Guérin began in September 1909 when Bishop Francis Silas Chatard, bishop of the then Diocese of Indianapolis, approved the opening of the informative process.

Events that occurred in 1907 and 1908 prompted the opening of the cause.

In 1907, when the remains of Mother Theodore were transferred from the Sisters of Providence Cemetery to a crypt in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, both at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, it was discovered that a portion of Mother Theodore's brain tissue was intact, pink and healthy—even though she was buried in 1856.

Then, during the night of Oct. 30, 1908, Providence Sister Mary Theodosia Mug was healed of cancer and neuritis after she prayed at Mother Theodore's crypt for the health of another Sister of Providence.

During the informative process of the cause, 24 individuals testified to the holiness of Mother Theodore's life. The end of the process in 1913 marked the beginning of a study of Mother Theodore's

writings, which were approved by the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints in July 1927.

The study of Mother Theodore's life continued with interviews and research in dioceses in France and Indiana.

In 1956, Pope Pius XII approved and signed the *Placet Eugenio* to continue Mother Theodore's cause. Subsequently, the apostolic process was introduced, also in 1956.

In October 1978, Providence Sister Joseph Eleanor Ryan began compiling the *Positio*, a documented account of the life, work and writings of Mother Theodore.

The *Positio* was acknowledged to be sufficient to measure the sanctity of Mother Theodore and was approved by the Vatican's historical consultants and theologians.

On July 22, 1992, by papal decree, Pope John Paul II granted Mother Theodore the title "Venerable" in recognition of her virtuous and heroic life.

The next step in the cause involved a thorough investigation of the healing of Sister Mary Theodosia. The investigation included the study of medical practices common in Indiana in the early 1900s.

In November 1996, medical consultants affiliated with the Vatican

approved the healing of Sister Mary Theodosia as a miracle through the intercession of Mother Theodore. Subsequently, the healing was approved by Vatican theologians in March 1997 and by cardinals in June 1997.

On July 7, 1997, Pope John Paul II accepted the healing of Sister Mary Theodosia as a miracle through the intercession of Mother Theodore. The acceptance of the healing as a miracle opened the way for the beatification of Mother Theodore on Oct. 25, 1998. †

Vietnamese Dominicans present portrait to Sisters of Providence

By Mary Ann Wyand

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS—Two Dominican nuns from Vietnam joined the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods for the eucharistic liturgies there celebrating the Oct. 25 beatification of Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin in Rome.

Dominican Sisters Marie Rose Dai and Rose Pham from Tam Hiep, Bien Hoa, Vietnam, also presented a large oil painting of Blessed Mother Theodore, created by a Vietnamese artist, to the congregation after the beatification.

The portrait depicts the foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods with a halo in recognition of her beatification by Pope John Paul II.

Below the portrait, the Dominicans had added a brief message on the canvas which read "Congratulations! With love and gratitude from the Dominican Sisters of Tam Hiep, Bien Hoa, Viet Nam (Rosa Dai, '59), Oct. 1998.)"

Sister Marie Rose graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in 1959 and Sister Rose currently is a student at the college. Her studies are sponsored by the Sisters of Providence and the college.

Providence Sister Rosemary Borntrager, general secretary of the congregation, said the order is "thrilled" to have the commemorative painting. She said the decision about where to hang the portrait will be made soon. †

This portrait donated by Dominican nuns from Vietnam depicts Mother Theodore Guérin with a halo in recognition of her beatification by Pope John Paul II.



Sr. Mary Theodosia Mug, S.P.

Canonization process gives new meaning to 'patience of a saint'

WASHINGTON (CNS)—There are 29 open U.S. sainthood causes: 12 involve priests; 12 more would canonize women religious; three are for bishops and two for lay people, a Native American maiden and a former male slave.

The causes are at various stages in the Catholic process of canonization. Though reformed in 1983, the process gives new meaning to the old maxim about having "the patience of a saint."

It still takes a long time for a "servant of God"—the title given an official sainthood candidate—to be declared "venerable," then "blessed," and finally "saint."

The last Index of the Status of Causes, published by the Congregation for Sainthood Causes in 1988, listed an estimated 1,500 open causes from around the world.

The congregation is the Vatican agency that regulates the process and scrutinizes the lives and writings of potential saints, as well as the miracles attributed to their intercession. When its findings at particular stages are favorable, the congregation consults with the pope. If he concurs, the appropriate decree is issued.

A Vatican official told Catholic News Service that each cause has its own pace. Causes may be very active just before beatification, the official said, but could sit quietly for years awaiting a miracle.

The list of open U.S. causes—developed with the help of Msgr. Robert J. Sarno, a U.S. priest at the congregation—includes three who are beatified, seven declared venerable and 19 servants of God. In the last category, five are being studied in the Rome phase of the inquiry, while 14 are in the first, or diocesan, phase of investigation.

Those already beatified require a second miracle credited to their intercession before they can be canonized. They are:

—Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-1680); Native American convert to Christianity; known as "the Lily of the

Mohawks" for her piety and good works; cause opened, 1932; declared venerable, 1943; beatified, 1980.

Jesuit Father John Paret, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs in Auriesville, N.Y., and cause vice postulator, said three or four reported miracles have been rejected in Rome.

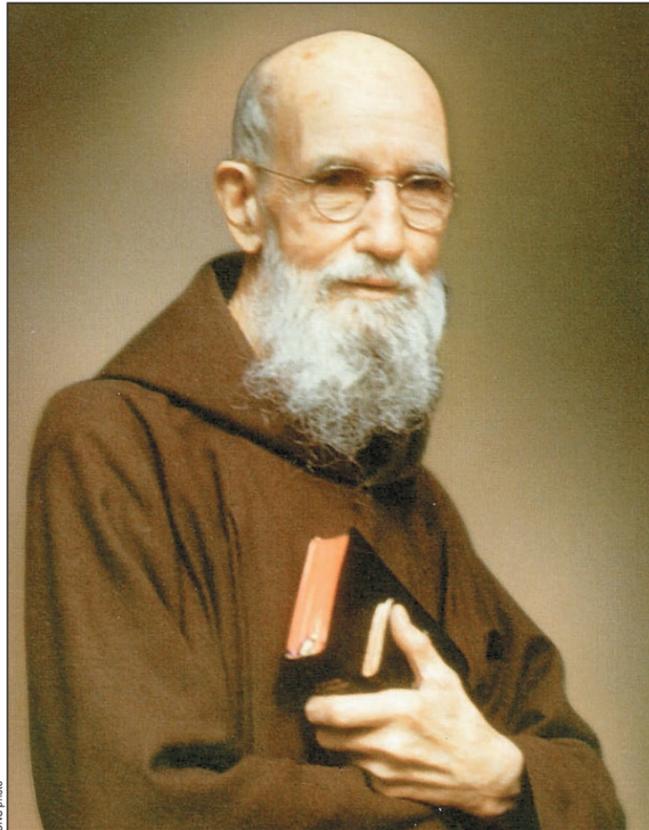
But he said one that occurred four years ago following prayers to Blessed Kateri—restoration of sight in the eye of a Georgia boy blinded by a screwdriver—is promising. He hopes the boy's family, initially unwilling to cooperate, will authorize release of medical records.

—Blessed Junipero Serra (1713-1784); Spanish-born Franciscan missionary who spent 20 years in Mexico and 15 in California; established nine of 21 Franciscan missions in California; cause opened, 1934; declared venerable, 1985; beatified, 1988.

Franciscan Brother Timothy Arthur, archivist of the Province of St. Barbara in Santa Barbara, Calif., said there are two "possible cures" currently under investigation. One involves an East Coast religious brother—in an acute medical situation and expected to die—who recovered completely after prayers to Blessed Junipero. The other involves a Southern California man with pancreatic cancer who was given a year to live. He prayed before a hospital chapel window dedicated to Blessed Junipero after getting the diagnosis and has been in remission for three years.

—Blessed Katharine Drexel (1858-1955); Philadelphia-born heiress who used her banking fortune to establish schools for Native Americans and African-Americans; founded Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in 1891; cause opened, 1964; declared venerable, 1987; beatified, 1988.

The second reported miracle, a cure of deafness in a toddler born with nerve deafness, is now under review in Rome,



Father Solanus Casey, a simple Capuchin priest and doorkeeper at Franciscan friaries in New York and Detroit, was declared venerable in 1995. The declaration ended the Church investigation into his life. A miracle attributed to his intercession must be approved before beatification, the next step to sainthood.

according to Father Alexander Palmieri, cause vice postulator and chancellor of the Philadelphia Archdiocese. The cure occurred after prayers to Blessed Katharine.

—Blessed Mother Theodore (Anne Thérèse) Guérin (1798-1856); member of French Congregation of the Sisters of Providence who founded the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., in 1840; cause opened, 1909; declared venerable, 1992; beatified 1998.

In declaring six potential U.S. saints venerable, the Church has recognized their "heroic virtue" and ended investigations into their lives and sanctity. Each needs a first miracle attributed to their intercession before beatification. The six are:

—Venerable Catherine McAuley (1778-1841); Irish foundress of the Sisters of Mercy in Dublin in 1831; her "walking nuns" served the poor and sick; cause opened, 1975; declared venerable, 1990.

A spokeswoman for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas in Silver Spring, Md., said this is "an international cause," with Mercy Sister Mary Angela Bolster serving as vice postulator in Cork, Ireland.

—Venerable Cornelia Peacock Connelly (1809-1879); Philadelphia-born convert and foundress of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus in England in 1846; involved in sensational British lawsuit brought by husband Pierce Connelly, an Episcopal minister ordained as a Catholic priest, who sought restoration of conjugal

rights; cause opened in England, 1953; declared venerable, 1992.

Sister Jeanne Marie Hatch, vocation director for the order's American province in Drexel Hill, Pa., said this cause, too, has an international base, with Holy Child sisters in Europe, Africa and the United States promoting it and "praying for a miraculous cure."

—Venerable Samuel Mazzuchelli (1806-1864); Italian-born Dominican missionary among fur traders, Native Americans and pioneers in upper Midwest; founded Sinsinawa Dominican Congregation of the Most Holy Rosary in Wisconsin in 1847; cause opened, 1965; declared venerable, 1993.

—Venerable Maria Theresa (Josephine) Dudzik (1860-1918); Polish-born seamstress who in 1894 founded Franciscan Sisters of Chicago to serve the poor and homeless; cause opened, 1979; declared venerable, 1994.

—Venerable Solanus (Bernard) Casey (1870-1957); simple Capuchin priest and doorkeeper at Franciscan friaries in New York and Detroit; noted for his charity and gifts of prophecy and healing; cause opened, 1982; declared venerable, 1995.

—Venerable Pierre Toussaint (1766-1853); Haitian-born slave, living in New York from 1787, who bought his freedom in 1807; hairdresser to prominent New Yorkers; known for daily Mass attendance and charitable works; only lay person buried in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York; cause opened, 1989; declared venerable, 1996. †

U.S. saints include only one who is native-born

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Five sainthood causes from the United States have successfully ended in canonization.

In its declarations of sainthood, the Catholic Church recognizes the sanctity of these "servants of God," declaring they are with God in heaven and worthy of universal veneration. Churches and altars may be built in their names. Their feast days are listed in the Roman martyrology, the official calendar of saints' feast days. Of the five, only St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is native-born; the others were born in Europe and came to North America as missionaries.

They are:

- The Jesuit North American martyrs: St. Rene Goupil (1607-1642), St. Isaac Jogues (1607-1646), St. Jean Lalande (died 1646), St. Antoine Daniel (1601-1648), St. Jean de Brebeuf (1593-1649), St. Gabriel Lalemant (1610-1649), St. Charles Garnier (circa 1606-1649) and St. Noel Chabanel (1613-1649).

- Six of the eight French Jesuits—all missionaries among the Huron and Iroquois Indians—were priests; one was a lay brother and one a lay volunteer. Three were martyred in New York, the others in Canada. Beatified in 1925; canonized, 1930. Feast day: Oct. 19.

- St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917); Italian foundress of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart; emigrated to America in 1889, establishing a convent

in New York to work among Italian immigrants; became a U.S. citizen in 1909; founded more than 50 convents in eight countries. Beatified in 1938; canonized, 1946. Feast day: Nov. 13.

- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821); born into upper-class family in colonial New York; widowed in 1803 and left bankrupt with five children; converted to Catholicism in 1805; founded the Sisters of Charity in the United States in 1809 in Emmitsburg, Md. Beatified in 1963; canonized, 1975. Feast day: Jan. 4.

- St. John Nepomucene Neumann (1811-1860); Bohemian-born missionary ordained in New York shortly after his arrival in 1836; admitted to the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer in 1840 and professed as a Redemptorist in 1842; served in Pittsburgh and Baltimore; appointed fourth bishop of Philadelphia in 1852. Beatified in 1963; canonized, 1977. Feast day: Jan. 5.

- St. Rose Philippine Duchesne (1769-1852); French nun and educator who emigrated to the United States for missionary work in 1818; set up first U.S. convent of the Society of the Sacred Heart in Missouri; established a number of schools and worked with Native Americans in her final years. Beatified, 1940; canonized, 1988. Feast day: Nov. 18. †



Blessing of remains

Father Bernard Head, former chaplain to the Sisters of Providence, blesses the remains of Mother Theodore, when they were transferred from the crypt to the floor of the Church of the Immaculate Conception on Feb. 1, 1989. Providence Sister Nancy Nolan, former general superior, stands at right.