

NOTIFICATION CONCERNING THE CULT OF THE BLESSED*

(Notitiae 35 [1999] 444-446)

1. Those Servants of God are legitimately called Blessed who have been solemnly declared with this name by the Roman Pontiff in the rite of beatification or those whose *cultus* from immemorial custom has been confirmed by the Apostolic See.
2. The liturgical *cultus* of the Blessed is only granted in the places and in the manners established by law.
3. It is the responsibility of the Diocesan Bishop to request for his diocese that a Blessed, who has a special link with the same diocese - for example, by birth, by a prolonged stay, by apostolic activity, by death or by burial - be entered in the Particular Calendar.
4. It is also the responsibility of the Superior General of a religious institute to request that a Blessed, who is a member of that religious family or has a special relationship with it, be entered in the Particular Calendar of the Institute.
5. The celebration of the Blessed is assigned to the *dies natalis*. If, however, the *dies natalis* is impeded by another obligatory celebration in the General or Particular Calendar, even of a lower rank, it is assigned to the nearest day, provided it is not impeded, or to a day which is otherwise appropriate to the same Blessed - for example, the day of priestly Ordination or Religious Profession or the translation of the remains.
6. The celebration of a Blessed legitimately inscribed in the Particular Calendar of a diocese, a religious family or a larger territory is held with the rank of optional memorial, and with the rank of obligatory memorial in the Church where their remains are preserved; in the calendar of a religious Institute, the rank of feast is usually reserved for the Blessed who is the founder of that Institute.
7. In order not to overburden the calendar of the entire diocese or Institute, care should be taken to inscribe with a proper celebration only those Blesseds who are of particular importance for the entire diocese or religious family; others are to be celebrated only in those places where they have the closest relationship or where their remains are preserved. This norm is all the more valid for a region or nation.
8. The liturgical texts for the celebration of the Blessed can be taken from the respective Common of both the Roman Missal and the Liturgy of the Hours. The Collect, being closely linked to the Blessed themselves, is proper. In the Office of Readings, the second reading with the responsory can be taken either from the writings of the Blessed themselves or from a contemporary account, otherwise it is taken from the writings of the Fathers or ecclesiastical writers. The reading is to be preceded by a brief hagiographical note, which, however, is not to be read during the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours. These texts must be submitted to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments by the competent authority before beatification and cannot be modified without the consent of the Apostolic See.

* Working translation.

9. In order for a Blessed to be chosen as Titular of a church, a prior indult of the Apostolic See is required, unless his/her memorial has already been added to the Particular Calendar. In such a case, an indult is not required and the veneration of the Blessed in the church of which he/she is Titular is celebrated with the rank of feast.

10. According to the norms established by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, a Blessed can be chosen as the patron of a place or an association, but this choice must be confirmed by the Apostolic See.

11. Where the *cultus* is granted, the remains or relics of a Blessed may be displayed for public veneration by the faithful, and images of the Blessed may be adorned with a halo.

12. The right to hold liturgical celebrations in honour of the new Blessed within a year of the beatification itself, according to the “Norms concerning celebrations that are customary for a certain period after beatification”, is requested along with the approval of the liturgical texts of the new Blessed prior to the beatification.

13. The names of the Blessed, which appear in the Calendar of the diocese or religious institute, may be mentioned in Eucharistic Prayer III (*Ordo Missae*, n. 114 [must be corrected in 113]) and added to the Litany of the Saints.

14. With regard to the Blesseds who are not included in the Roman Martyrology nor enjoy a public *cultus* decreed or confirmed by the Apostolic See, the decree of the Sacred Congregation of Rites of 28 April 1914 applies, according to which, if in particular places by immemorial custom certain Blesseds are honoured with a public and religious *cultus*, it is licit to preserve them in the Particular Calendar by placing an asterisk or other sign next to their name; this notation, therefore, indicates the lack of an explicit decree by which they are formally declared Blessed.

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