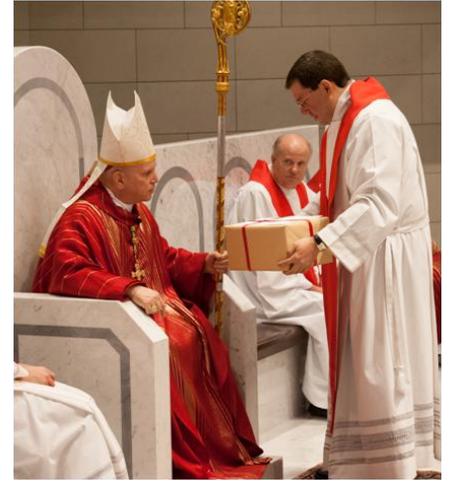




Is Sainthood Next for Sister Zdenka ?



Father Giovanni Capucci, right, shows Archbishop Samuel Aquila a sealed box containing evidence of an alleged miracle after Mass at the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary Feb. 28.
Photo by Todd Wollam/DCR

Months of investigation into an alleged miracle in Denver credited to Blessed Zdenka Schelingová, a Sister of Mercy of the Holy Cross, ended in a Mass February 28 on the John Paul II Center campus at the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary when secrecy was sworn and evidence was sealed.

Archbishop Samuel Aquila celebrated the closing Mass, which ended in the ceremonial sealing of a 695-page document chronicling the Denver Archdiocese's collection of some six testimonies, medical records and evidence of the alleged miracle. The detailed investigation could lead to the canonization of Blessed Zdenka.

Eager for her sainthood, three Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross arrived from Slovakia and Switzerland to attend the closing Mass. "We were very much touched by this fact that Sister Zdenka is working on other continents, not just in Europe," said Sister Marija Brizar, general superior of the congregation. "We've felt how much Sister Zdenka touches the hearts of the people who work on this process and other people around."

Father Ludovit Pokojný, the postulator who delivered the documents to Rome, came to Denver for the investigation. "In my opinion many events have happened already. For example, the spiritual changes of the people," said Father Pokojný, through a translator. "I think this cause of beatification has improved the holiness of the people of the Archdiocese of Denver. But I don't know what God really wants through events here in Denver. ...Why has Zdenka made herself present in such a strong way here in Denver?"

Marge Van Lierde, niece of Blessed Zdenka, lives in Virginia and took part in the Holy Cross Sisters Centennial Celebration in 2012 by presenting the life story of this courageous sister. She had the following comments. "Early on in the investigative process of the Cause for Canonization of my aunt, a wise Sister of Mercy of the Holy Cross told me, 'If God wants it, it will happen'. Now that everything is at the Vatican, I try to remember her advice as we settle in to wait for a response. I am extremely humbled by all that has unfolded and, while not able to be in Denver for the closing ceremonies, my heart continues to be filled with hope that 'God wants it'."



Sister Marija Brizar



Marge Van Lierde

Blessed Zdenka's life

- 1916: Born in Kriva, Slovakia
- 1931: Joins the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross
- 1933-35: Attends nursing school
- 1936-37: Enters novitiate and makes first vows
- 1937-52: Works in hospitals as a nurse
- 1952: Arrested and incarcerated by communist regime
- 1955: Released from prison as terminally ill and dies
- 2003: Declared Blessed by Pope John Paul II