

Book explains how saints are made and why

With many people curious about whether or not Mother Teresa will be made a saint, it comes as a bit of a surprise that no one has come into the library to borrow the book by Kenneth L. Woodward, *Making Saints: How*

the Catholic Church Determines Who Becomes a Saint, Who Doesn't, and Why.

Strictly speaking, of course, the church does not "make saints." God alone provides the grace whereby a

Peter or a Paul, a Francis or an Ignatius, a Catherine, a Clare, or a Teresa attains that level of Christian perfection which, in Catholic reckoning, constitutes sainthood.

And only God knows how many saints there are or have been.

What the church does claim is the divinely-guided ability to discern from time to time that this or that person is among the elect.

The purpose in identifying these holy men and women is to set them before the faithful for their emulation.

In this sense, the church does indeed "make saints."

The process is interesting, and not just a little bit complicated.

Fortunately, the author provides many stories from his travels and interviews which make the book a fascinating experience for the reader.

LIBRARY NEWS

The chapter on 'Mystics, Visionaries, and Wonder-Workers' is engrossing.

Especially now, its opening catches our attention.

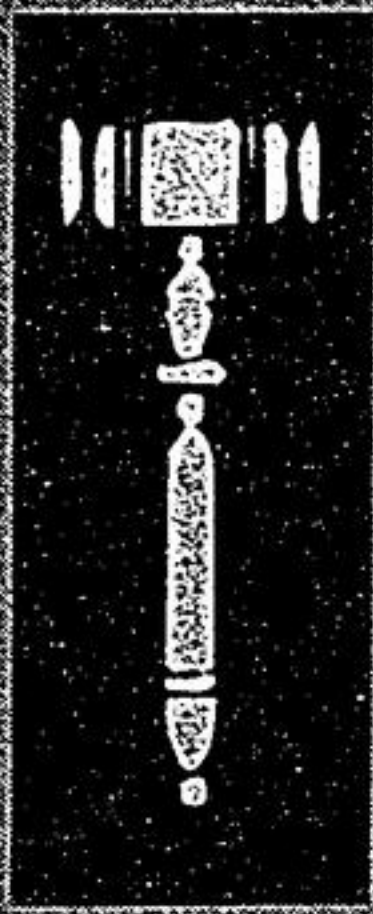
"Undoubtedly the most eagerly anticipated cause is that of Francesco Forgione (1887-1968)... he rarely ventured far from the Apulian region of southern Italy. Padre Pio was, until the advent of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Roman Catholicism's most famous 'living saint.'"

Of course, the first sentence of the introduction has us hooked. "Is Mother Teresa of Calcutta a saint?" asks Woodward.

To think, this book is just sitting in the library, waiting for someone to read it.

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