



Blessed Theodore Guerin High School

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CANONIZATION OF BLESSED THEODORE GUERIN ANNOUNCED ***Guerin Catholic High School prepares to honor its namesake***

NOBLESVILLE, IND. — Today, Pope Benedict XVI approved plans for the canonization of Blessed Theodore Guerin, which will take place in Rome on October 15, 2006. Pope Benedict XVI will be presiding the ceremony. Blessed Theodore Guerin is the namesake for Blessed Theodore Guerin High School, located in Noblesville, which opened in August of 2004 and is operated by the Diocese of Lafayette (Ind.). Bishop Rafael Guizar Valencia from Mexico, along with Italians Filippo Smaldone and Rosa Venerini will be canonized along with Mother Guerin on Oct. 15th.

Canonization is the formal declaration by the Church that a Christian whose life was an outstanding witness to Christian virtue is now in heaven and interceding for us. With canonization, Blessed Theodore Guerin will receive the title "saint" and is approved to be venerated by the worldwide Church. As the patroness of Blessed Theodore Guerin High School and the first "Hoosier" to become declared a saint, her canonization is a historic event for the school and entire community.

Mother Guerin, who founded the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the Woods, is credited with the intercession leading to two miracles which were necessary for Pope Benedict XVI's approval of her becoming a saint. The first miracle involved a Sister of Providence healed of cancer in 1908, and the second miracle took place in 2001 when Phil McCord, a Sisters of Providence employee, asked for Mother Guerin's influence on God to help heal his failing eyesight due to cataract removal.

Mother Guerin was born on Oct. 2, 1798 in the Brittany region of France with the given name of Anne-Therese Guerin. In October 1840, she traveled across the sea with five other nuns to St. Mary-of-the-Woods. She then started an academy for girls that would become St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, as well as schools in Fort Wayne, Madison, Columbus and elsewhere. Mother Guerin died May 14, 1856.

The Guerin Catholic High School Canonization Celebration Committee has already convened and begun planning ways to honor Mother Guerin and celebrate this historic event. Initial plans include special prayers and activities for students, faculty, staff, and parents. Some of these events will include the broader community. The Committee is also in the planning stages to organize a pilgrimage to Rome for the canonization event. The Committee has already selected 35-40 students, parents and staff from Guerin Catholic High School to travel to Rome for the canonization as a delegation representing the school.

"We are excited at this announcement," said Fr. Dale Ehrman, Director of Campus Ministry at Guerin Catholic High School. "Mother Guerin was a pioneer of Catholic education in Indiana who taught so many to trust in God's care, that is divine providence. She is a great model for our students and families. I know that our school's existence is the fruit of her intercession and patronage. We are grateful for the Church's plan for canonization and will take this opportunity to share her life and story with others."

Of the many Catholics who have spent the majority of their lives ministering in the United States, Blessed Theodore Guerin will be only the eighth person to be declared a saint. Guerin Catholic High School looks forward to celebrating this great event in honor of the patroness of our school community.

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About Blessed Theodore Guerin High School

Blessed Theodore Guerin High School is a Roman Catholic, co-educational college-preparatory school serving students from diverse academic economic, and ethnic backgrounds. Dedicated to the message of Jesus Christ, we are called to academic excellence, spiritual growth, and involvement in the ongoing life of the Church through The Word, Prayer, Service, and Sacraments. For more information, please visit www.guerincatholic.org.