

# Loren wants Pope John Paul II beatified: report

---

ROME (AFP) — Italian film legend Sophia Loren has testified in favour of the beatification of late pope John Paul II, the weekly Chi reported Tuesday.

"I jealously keep the memory of John Paul II in my heart," the Oscar-winning actress wrote in testimony collected by Monsignor Slawomir Oder, the prelate in charge of the late pope's case for sainthood, according to Chi.

"It is a daily memory. I went to the tomb of John Paul II in the Vatican to pay homage to him and pray, in order to show my great admiration and devotion," Loren wrote.

"I also turned to him to get his benediction for my entire family at a particular moment," she wrote.

The popular pope -- who himself died from Parkinson's disease -- has been the subject of widespread calls for "instant sainthood," especially from Polish Roman Catholics.

The dossier for John Paul's beatification was put on the fast track when his successor Benedict XVI waived the usual five-year waiting period in May 2005.

Convincing evidence of a miracle -- usually a medical cure with no scientific explanation -- is essential in the beatification process.

The quickest beatification procedure to date was for Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who was beatified in 2003, six years after her death, after John Paul II himself waived the waiting period -- which is intended to prevent sentiments from clouding judgement soon after the death of a candidate.

A second miracle is required for sainthood.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iz07INREenZbc4girQZX8hAgwkzA>