

# Step forward toward beatification of John Paul II?

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The cause for beatification of Pope John Paul II has moved a step forward, according to a report by Andrea Tornielli of the Italian daily newspaper *Il Giornale*. Tornielli-- who has accurately predicted several recent developments inside the Vatican-- says that theological consultants working with the Congregation for the Causes of Saints have delivered a positive verdict on the *positio*, the full case in favor of a pronouncement that the life of John Paul II was marked by "heroic virtue." The *positio* will now be forwarded to the full Congregation for the Causes of Saints for a vote later this year, Tornielli says. If a decree of "heroic virtue" is approved by the Pope, the recognition of a miracle would be the only remaining requirement for the beatification of the late Pontiff.

The Vatican has not issued any official comment on Tornielli's report. As a matter of policy the Congregation for the Causes of Saints does not make public statements about continuing investigations.

Tornielli's story comes after reports that the cause for John Paul II has been delayed by disagreements among influential Vatican officials, with some-- notably the former Secretary of State, Cardinal Angelo Sodano-- reportedly uncomfortable about the rapid advance of the cause.

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