

Canonization of Another Pope

If you didn't already know there will be a Canonization of another Pope after the 50th Anniversary for which Pope Paul VI, who is probably best remembered: issuance of the encyclical, *Humanae Vitae* ("Of Human Life") reaffirming the Church's Condemnation of artificial birth control. Pope Francis will also tell the World that Pope Paul VI lived a holy life and now is with God in Heaven. In doing that, Pope Francis will be continuing a practice that used to be rare but in recent years has become fairly common – canonizing a Pope. The ceremony will take place at the conclusion of an assembly of the Synod of Bishops on young people, which will be held at the Vatican from October 3rd to 28th. This will bring 82 the number of popes – out of a total of 266 whom the Church recognizes as Saints.

There were, however, many other milestones in Pope Paul's Long career of service to the Church, including presiding at the three final sessions of the Second Vatican Council, bringing it to a successful conclusion in 1965 after it began by Pope St. John

XXIII, in 1962 and died in 1963. The newly ranking Cardinal Giovanni Battista Montini at the conclave where he was elected Pope took the name Paul VI. One of his first official actions was to decree that Vatican II – which had been convened by Pope John and whose first session was held the previous fall would go on. Pope Paul VI presided at the three session that followed, in 1963, 1964 and 1965.

Along with Blessed Pope Paul VI will be canonized Archbishop Oscar Romero, the Salvadoran Churchman and champion of the poor who was shot to death by a gunman in 1980.

In 2017, Pope John Paul I was declared Venerable. You'll remember Pope John Paul I, whose brief pontificate in 1978 lasted only 33 days. He is at the early stage of the process that could lead him to be declared his a Saint in the future.