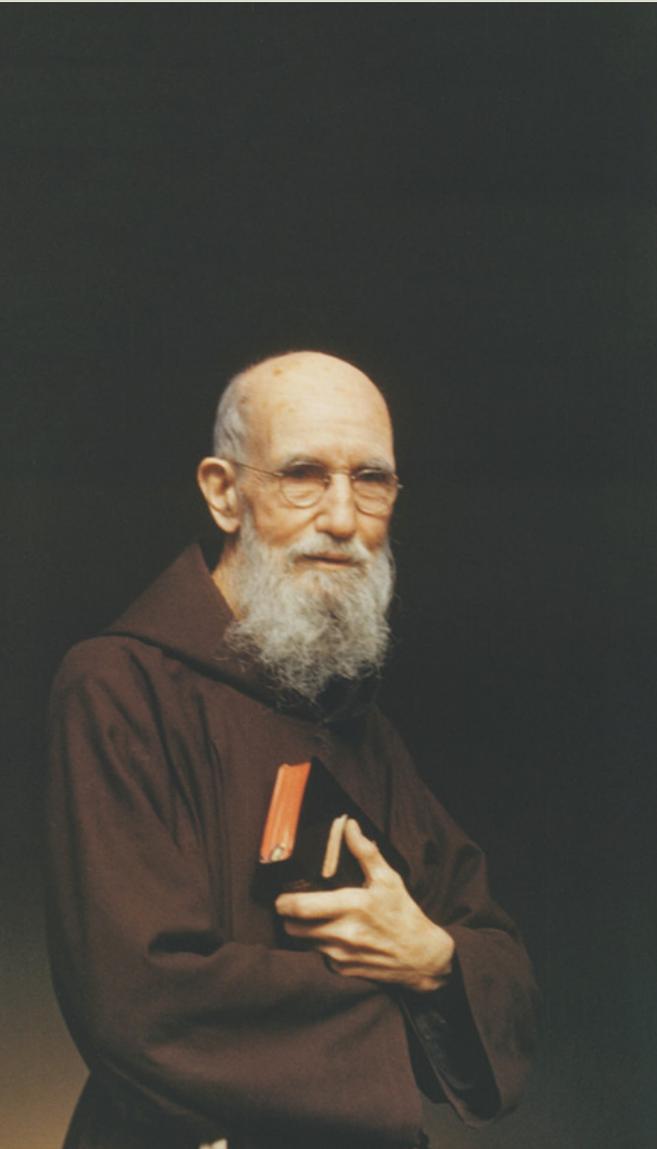


FATHER SOLANUS CASEY

DETROIT PRIEST ONE STEP CLOSER TO SAINTHOOD



FATHER CASEY: "THE DOORKEEPER"

The story of Solanus Casey — born "Bernard Francis" to Irish immigrants on a Wisconsin farm in the year 1870 — is one of humble and limitless devotion to the poor. A lover of baseball, violin music, and practical jokes among his 15 siblings, Father Casey found joy in many areas of his life, but his journey to the priesthood was fraught with obstacles as he struggled with his studies along the way.

Due to these academic shortcomings, he was ordained a "simple" priest; this means he was permitted to celebrate Mass but not to hear confessions or preach formal homilies. While many might have despaired, Father Casey took joy in even the smallest of tasks given to him, including his assignment as doorman of a Capuchin parish and monastery in New York.

In the role, he soon gained a reputation for the endless patience and compassion he offered to all visitors, whose numbers increased as word of his generosity spread. Additionally, during his time with the Capuchins, reports of miracles and blessings grew. The trend continued after he was transferred to Detroit, so that by the end of his life, Father Casey had filled seven notebooks noting more than 6,000 cases of answered prayers!

BEATIFICATION MASS

Saturday, Nov. 18, 4 PM

Dubbed by some media outlets as a "Catholic Superbowl" for its sheer size, the upcoming beatification Mass of Father Casey, to be held at Detroit's Ford Field, is drawing a crowd of 70,000, including 350 Casey family members from 13 states and Ireland. Knights of Columbus Solanus Assembly 0521 is also attending and organizing transportation services to the event.

TO VIEW LIVE

- www.solanuscasy.org/beatification-live
- www.facebook.com/FatherSolanusCasey
- www.AOD.org
- EWTN television stations



The Casey family: (back) Edward, Leo, Bernard Jr. (the future Father Solanus), James, Ellen, Patrick, Owen and Augustine; (front): John, Margaret, Mrs. Ellen Casey, Genevieve, Bernard Casey Sr., Grace, Thomas and Maurice. Father Solanus' father and all nine of his brothers were members of the K of C. Superior, Wisc., 1892 Aug. 14.

(Photo courtesy of the Father Solanus Guild)

IN HIS FOOTSTEPS

**"EVEN ORDINARY
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FOLLOWING HIS
EXAMPLE AND
LIVING A LIFE OF
FAITH."**



Capuchin Soup Kitchen, Detroit, Mich., founded in 1929 by Capuchin friars Solanus Casey and Herman Buss. (Photo 1940-1949 approx., courtesy of the Father Solanus Guild)

"I was 15 when Father Solanus died. My father, Lawrence (Shoes) Junker, told me about Father Solanus and that he was from the area and that he knew the family. I feel honored that I was part of the council vote to change our name to Solanus Casey Council 1632 of Stillwater, Minn."

— **Art Junker**
Solanus Casey Council 1632
Stillwater, Minn.

"Deceased Brother Knight Gene Keating proposed renaming our council after Solanus Casey back in 1995, around the time he was declared Venerable by Pope John Paul II. I was just 23 years old at the time and an officer in the Stillwater K of C council. I had never heard of Solanus Casey before, but the more Gene spoke of him and his connections to the Stillwater, Minn., area, I was convinced that this was the right thing to do.

A resolution was brought before the Council in 1995 and was passed unanimously to rename our council to Solanus Casey Council 1632. A solemn dedication of our renamed council was held on April 14, 1997, presided over by our chaplain, Father Skluzacek. Brother Richard Merling, OFM, who was the director of the Father Solanus Guild in Detroit, attended our event.

Barney Casey was confirmed in the Church of St. Michael in Stillwater, Minn. His uncle was instrumental in the building of the church and facilities.

Barney Casey grew up as a simple man and had a simple faith. Prayer and hard work was what he is known for. As a doorkeeper in a monastery in Detroit, he was always ready to listen to people and their stories at any hour of the day or night. We should follow in this and always be ready to listen to our brothers and sisters as we never know what problems each of us have to overcome. We all need to be there for each other.

Another blessing of Solanus Casey is his example that holiness is attainable for anyone. Even ordinary people can lead extraordinary holy lives by following his example and living a life of faith.

I keep a relic of Father Solanus close and always replenish the stack of prayer cards whenever it runs low.

We are blessed to have had Father Solanus walk the same grounds as we do each day, but we are further blessed by the example that he led. We need to follow his lead now more than ever if we want to help our community and our world to be a better place. Please join us in praying for Solanus Casey and also help us to spread his wisdom so that others may see the good he continues to do and might be touched by his faith."

— **Dan Eder**
Council Advocate
Solanus Casey Council 1632
Stillwater, Minn.