

**“A miracle is required, because it’s the finger of God there. Without the clear intervention of the Lord, we cannot move forward with a sainthood cause.”**

## **MIRACLE**

A **miracle** (from the Latin "*miraculum*", a wonder), in theology, is an extraordinary event that exceeds natural laws and is considered to be worked by God directly or through one of his creatures. In everyday language, by extension, the term *miracle* also indicates an exceptional event, which engenders amazement; it indicates something out of the ordinary, which refers to a sphere of possibilities that goes beyond what we are used to knowing and experiencing in everyday life.

St Thomas, following the teaching of St Augustine, speaks of a miracle as an extraordinary intervention by God, and gives the following definition: '*A miracle is something done by God outside the order of all created nature*'.

According to Cardinal J.H. Newman, canonised in 2019, a miracle is: "*a sign of God's presence acting on our behalf, it is an event that impresses on the soul the immediate presence of the One who spiritually governs the world*".<sup>1</sup>

The miracles that God always works, also through the intercession of the saints, are to be traced back to those miracles that Jesus performed among the people; these, in turn, are to be traced back to the "miracle" *par excellence*, that is to say, his glorious resurrection, the greatest sign of his divine power.

According to the current procedure, defined by the Apostolic Constitution "*Divinus Perfectionis Magister*", promulgated by St John Paul II in 1983, the inquiry conducted by the Church to ascertain the truth of the miracle is based, in cases of inexplicable healing, on a careful analysis of the facts by a medical council appointed by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints and composed of both believing and non-believing specialists, whose task is to verify whether the case under examination meets the criteria established by the Church.

In conclusion, the miracle indicates that someone, in a moment of grave need, has prayed to a candidate for the honours of the altars, that the Lord, through their intercession, will grant what has been requested with faith, coming to their aid with an inexplicable event. The miracle represents God's loving, free and gratuitous response: this is considered an authoritative sign that the person invoked is in heaven and from there can intercede for the faithful of the Church Militant.

In practice if it is a medical case, in order to be considered a possible miracle, the healing must be judged by specialists according to clear characteristics: it must have been **RAPID, COMPLETE, LASTING** and **INEXPLICABLE** according to current medical-scientific knowledge, and not as a consequence of the therapies administered.

---

<sup>1</sup> John Hery Newman, *Apologia pro vita sua*, Milano 1995, 322.

