

Pope prays for John Paul saint move

» 2009-04-01 14:49

But Polish pope 'not on list of upcoming cases'

□ (ANSA) - Vatican City, April 1 - Pope Benedict XVI on Wednesday prayed for the beatification of Pope John Paul II on the eve of the fourth anniversary of his predecessor's death.

Benedict told a group of Polish pilgrims, who are expected to form part of huge crowds here Thursday: "May the spiritual legacy of your great compatriot inspire your personal, family, social and national life. Together with you I pray for the gift of beatification". The pope has made such statements on John Paul before and this one was not taken as an indication that the Polish pope will be beatified any time soon.

The Vatican official in charge of John Paul's cause said an exception had been made to put him on a fast track after his death but the late pontiff was not on the list of upcoming cases.

"We cannot predict a precise schedule," said Msgr Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

Amato said "all the stages, including the examination of the miracle, have to be conducted in a particularly thorough way".

One certified miracle - reports of which the Vatican receives weekly - is enough for beatification, the preliminary stage before sainthood.

Another one is needed for canonisation, or becoming a saint. photo: John Paul's body lies in state, April 4, 2005

http://www.ansa.it/site/notizie/awnplus/english/news/2009-04-01_101277984.html