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Catholic church to canonize new saint after accepting Pa. miracle report

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By Mercury staff

The Catholic Church will canonize Father Louise Guanella, founder of the religious orders of the Servants of Charity and Daughters of Saint Mary Providence, and the Pious Union of Saint Joseph Prayer Association, on Sunday, Oct. 23.

According to a press release from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the canonization is happening after the Roman Catholic Church confirmed the healing of a Springfield, Pa., man was attributable to Guanella.

William Glisson Jr. was restored to full health after falling into a coma from a rollerblading accident in 2002 after members of Don Guanella Village, members of the Servants of Charity and family members of Glisson used two relics from the priest and prayed for Guanella's intercession in Glisson's recovery.

"In November 2009, the medical commission of the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints declared there were no scientific, natural, or medical reasons for his cure. And in January 2010, the Pontifical Theological Commission confirmed that William Glisson's healing was obtained through the intercession of Blessed Father Louis Guanella," read the press release from the archdiocese.

Glisson will attend the canonization along with Bishop John J. McIntyre, auxiliary bishop of Philadelphia, who is representing Archbishop Chaput.

A special Mass celebrating Saint Guanella's Feast Day will be held at the Cardinal Krol Center at Don Guanella Village, 1799 South Sproul Road, in Springfield the Monday after the canonization at 11 a.m.

Don Guanella Village is a residential center for men and boys with developmental disabilities that includes Don Guanella School.