



THE CARDINAL COOKE GUILD

OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE CAUSE OF CANONIZATION OF CARDINAL COOKE

- Dr. Avv. Andrea Ambrosi
Roman Postulator
- Rev. Msgr. Joseph R. Giandurco
Vice Postulator
- Patricia Handal
Coordinator
- Rev. Benedict J. Groeschel, CFR
Consultant

EMAIL: abbeykkmoy@aol.com WEB SITE: <http://www.terencecardinalcooke.org>

SPRING 2010
VOL. 13 NO. 3

THE CARDINAL COOKE CATHOLIC CENTER
1011 FIRST AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10022 (212) 371-1000

Pope Receives Positio of Cardinal Cooke's Cause

By Claudia McDonnell

After years of hard work on the canonization cause of Cardinal Terence Cooke, two of its leaders placed the story of the cardinal's life and holiness in the hands of Pope Benedict XVI.

Msgr. Joseph R. Giandurco, vice postulator of the cause, and Patricia Handal, coordinator of the Cardinal Cooke Guild, presented the *positio*, the documentation on the cardinal's life, work and virtues, to the pope following his general audience in St. Peter's Square April 14.

Flanking them as they made the presentation were Archbishop Dolan and Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien of Baltimore, a former New York auxiliary bishop who served for a time as Cardinal Cooke's secretary.

The *positio* consists of two volumes, each containing 1,000 pages. Msgr. Giandurco told CNY that he presented



"He was a very holy man." The words of Pope Benedict XVI upon viewing the picture of Cardinal Cooke in the Positio book presented to the Holy Father. Pictured here are New York Archbishop Timothy Dolan and Msgr. Joseph Giandurco, vice-postulator of the cause. Joining them in the presentation to the Holy Father were Patricia Handal, Coordinator of the Cardinal Cooke Guild and Baltimore Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, a secretary to Cardinal Cooke. The Holy Father also said, "We need his example now."

the pope with Volume I and opened it to the official portrait of Cardinal Cooke. Instantly the pope's face was lighted by a spark of recognition and a smile, he recalled.

"He said, 'Oh, yes, he was a very holy man. We need his example now,' and he looked happy," Msgr. Giandurco said. "It was a wonderful moment." He added that the pope's reaction seemed like "a papal seal of approval" on continuing with the cause.

Msgr. Giandurco remarked that it was not surprising that Pope Benedict remembered Cardinal Cooke. The pope, as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, participated with Cardinal Cooke in the conclaves that elected Pope John Paul I and

Pope John Paul II.

He also said that Pope Benedict's description of Cardinal Cooke as "very holy" made him think of the comment of Pope John Paul II at St. Joseph's Seminary in 1995, when the pope called the cardinal "saintly."

Mrs. Handal said in an interview that the presentation to the pope was "an absolutely thrilling experience." She recalled that she told Pope Benedict "what a privilege it's been to work on the cause of such a holy man."

Also on her mind, she said, were the many volunteers who have worked at the Cardinal Cooke Guild and "who have made this presentation possible."

"I will always be grateful to them for their love and devotion to the cause, and for the support they've given me," she said.

She paid special tribute to the late Sister M. Aloysius McBride, O. Carm., the founder and first coordinator of the guild and an indefatigable worker for the cause. A former nursing home superior, she was widely known as Mother Aloysius. She died Dec. 3 at age 91.

"This group of volunteers would never have come together except for Mother Aloysius," Mrs. Handal said. "Mother Aloysius was the heart and soul of the guild, which made it possible for all of us to come together and put the 22,000 documents together."

What is the Positio?

The *Positio* is a comprehensive summary of all documentation resulting from the years-long investigation of the life and heroic virtues of Terence J. Cooke. It was prepared following the guidelines of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. On April 14, 2010, in Vatican City the *positio* was presented to Pope Benedict XVI, and then filed with the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to be examined by theologians. If approval is given, Cardinal Cooke, who is now called "Servant of God" will receive the title "Venerable," the second step in the process of determining sainthood.

Continued on page 4

Delivering the Positio



Presenting the Positio to the Holy Father were New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, Msgr. Joseph R. Giandurco, vice postulator of the cause, Patricia Handal, coordinator of the Cardinal Cooke Guild and Baltimore Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien.



Attending the ceremonies in Rome were members of the advisory board of the Cardinal Cooke Guild. (Left to right) Msgr. Joseph R. Giandurco, Pastor Terrence Weber, Lutheran Minister and long time member of the Guild, Pat Handal and Fr. James Hurley London parish priest who heads the English chapter of the Cardinal Cooke Guild.



The Holy Father extends his hand in greeting to Patricia Handal.



Pat Handal telling the Holy Father of the privilege it has been to work on the cause and the extraordinary work done by the Guild volunteers.



(Left to right) Archbishop James Harvey, a native of Milwaukee, an aide to the Holy Father as Prefect of the Papal Household taking the Positio for delivery to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, which will review the documents to determine if Terence Cardinal Cooke should receive the title Venerable.



Patricia and Peter Handal in St. Peter's Square. Both are on the Guild advisory board.

The cause of canonization of Terence Cardinal Cooke



Vice Postulator
Reverend Monsignor
Joseph Giandurco
Cardinal Cooke Commission

Sacred Heart Church
129 Lafayette Avenue
Suffern, New York 10901

April 27, 2010

Dear Friends,

The last time I wrote for this newsletter in Winter 2009, many of us directly associated with Cause of Beatification and Canonization of Terence Cardinal Cooke were filled with cautious optimism due to meetings between Patricia Handal and myself and Dr. Andrea Ambrosi, the Roman Postulator. There were moments in the winter months when things went back and forth from smooth sailing to choppy waters, to use a nautical analogy. We were hoping to combine an occasion when Archbishop Dolan would certainly be in Rome with the presentation of the *Positio* to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints and possibly to the Holy Father himself. Since there are bound to be setbacks and the need for revision and clarification when it comes to preparing a 2000 page document, at times it seemed as if the opportunity would be missed.

Fast forward to late March and the Roman Postulator communicated to the Archbishop and to us at the Guild and the

Commission for the Cause that the *Positio* would be completed by mid-April. With Archbishop Dolan's consent, Pat Handal and I planned to be in Rome at the same time, and the rest is history, as they say.

Pat Handal and I were given seats close to the Holy Father at the weekly Papal Audience at St. Peter's Basilica, thanks to arrangements made by Archbishop Dolan. After the papal audience, at the moment at which the Holy Father reached the place where Pat and I were, Archbishop Dolan and Archbishop O'Brien were there as well as we presented the two volumes of the *Positio* into the hands of the Pope. As several pictures attest, the Holy Father seemed pleased as he recognized the picture of Cardinal Cooke and he said, "He was a very holy man. We need his example now." Years of hard work on the part of so many seemed to come to fruition, even though much remains to be done on the part of the Congregation, the Postulator and the Guild. We should all pray that, with the Holy Father's approval, the Cause for Cardinal Cooke will move forward and, as I always say, and even more so now, one day in the not too distant future, he will be recognized as a Saint. It is truly in God's hands, as we pray the motto of the Cardinal, *Thy Will Be Done*.

Sincerely in Christ,



Sincerely in Christ,

Monsignor Joseph Giandurco
Vice Postulator

Report for late New York cardinal's sainthood cause presented to pope

By Cindy Wooden



Patricia Handal, Coordinator of the Cardinal Cooke Guild and Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, Archbishop of Baltimore, a former secretary to Cardinal Cooke.

The life and holiness of the late New York Cardinal Terence J. Cooke, summarized in a 2,000-page tome bound in white, was presented to Pope Benedict XVI at the end of his weekly general audience April 14.

The volume is the "positio" or position paper, which will be filed formally with the Congregation for Saints' Causes as an

initial step in the Vatican process to determine whether the cardinal should be beatified and canonized.

Presenting the "positio" to the pope were: New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan; Baltimore Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien; Patricia Handal, coordinator of the Cardinal Cooke Guild, which is promoting the sainthood cause; and Msgr. Joseph R. Giandurco, the cause's vice postulator.

Cardinal Cooke, who was born in 1921, was archbishop of New York City from 1968 until his death in 1983.

As the current archbishop of New York, Archbishop Dolan oversaw the final stages of the diocesan investigation of his cause.

Archbishop O'Brien's ties to the late cardinal were more immediate; he served as vice chancellor of New York and as communications director of the archdiocese in the 1970s and early 1980s, and as Cardinal Cooke's personal secretary in 1982-83.

"He was a holy man and people just knew it," Archbishop O'Brien told Catholic News Service after the papal audience.



THE CARDINAL COOKE GUILD

1011 First Avenue
New York, NY 10022-4187

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
NEW YORK, NY
PERMIT #2800

Pope Receives Positio of Cardinal Cooke's Cause

Continued from page 1



*The late Sr. Aloysius McBride,
founder and first coordinator of
the Cardinal Cooke Guild.*

The positio is a compilation of the information contained in the 22,000 documents assembled by the volunteers. A copy of the positio also has been given to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. It will be examined by theologians, and if approval is given, Cardinal Cooke will receive the title Venerable.

If that happens, the next step is beatification, for which a miracle is required. If Cardinal Cooke is declared Venerable, work will proceed

on the documentation of a healing that could be the basis for his beatification. The healing occurred in the United States; further information has not yet been released.

Mrs. Handal remarked that she had not known Cardinal Cooke, but said that she was amazed at the number of priests and bishops who came up to the New York group with stories to tell about him.

"Everybody has a dear story about Cardinal Cooke," she said.

"It was amazing—the enthusiasm of priests, bishops and cardinals, and the congratulations from them about this happening."

Like Mrs. Handal, Msgr. Giandurco expressed gratitude to all who have been involved in the cause.

"I am so grateful to the pope, Archbishop Dolan and the members of the Cardinal Cooke Guild for all the work they have done to bring this cause for canonization to the point at which it now stands," he said.

—reprinted with permission from *Catholic New York*

Report for late New York cardinal's sainthood cause presented to pope

Continued from page 3

"At a very difficult time in the life of the church, he used to say his goal as archbishop was to move the whole church forward, but together."

Handal, head of the Cardinal Cooke Guild, said that once the Congregation for Saints' Causes officially approves the "positio," those working on the cause will begin preparing the paperwork about a healing in Rome that they believe is a miracle granted through the late cardinal's intercession.

A miracle is needed for beatification.

—reprinted with permission from *Catholic News Service*