

MIRACLE FOR BEATIFICATION

Deacon Jack Sullivan was born in 1938 in Baintree, MA. He went on to Stonehill College majoring in history of government and philosophy. Following undergraduate studies, he enrolled in a Masters of Foreign Service program at Georgetown University. Afterwards, he received his law degree from Suffolk University Law School in 1967. He married Carolyn M Mulvee in 1969 and had three children.

In 1998 he entered the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program for the Archdiocese of Boston. In 2001, during his course of formation, he was afflicted with a serious spinal condition causing intolerable pain with no prospect of relief. One surgeon told him that he was on the brink of complete paralysis. He had recently undergone spinal surgery and during the procedure the surgeons encountered serious complications. His *dura mater* or protective lining surrounding the spinal cord was very badly torn. For days after the surgery, he was still suffering incredible pain with no end in sight.

On 15 August 2001, he felt completely helpless and this led him to call upon the intercession of John Henry Newman: "Please Cardinal Newman, help me to walk, so that I can return to my classes and be ordained." He himself explains what happened immediately after this.

"As soon as I had finished making this prayer I felt a tremendous sensation of intense heat all over, and a strong tingling feeling throughout my body. This feeling of heat and tingling seemed to last a long time! In addition I felt an indescribable sense of joy and peace, as though in the presence of God. I also had a renewed sense of hope and confidence that finally, I could walk. When this beautiful moment subsided, I realized, much to my surprise, I was standing upright. I said to the nurse: 'I have no more pain,' whereas minutes before, I was bent over in complete agony. During these precious moments, I was totally captivated, totally transfixed by God's loving presence! I realized that I could walk pain free, when I couldn't for months! I could walk upright! I could walk with strength in my back and in my legs!

"I was so totally invigorated that I sprinted out of my room and then up and down all the corridors on my floor of the hospital. The poor nurse tagging behind kept shouting 'Jack slow down – slow down!' Immediately thereafter, I was discharged, and to everyone's astonishment I returned to my classes on time." His doctors were unable to provide any medical explanation for the change in his condition, and a year later, in September 2002, Jack was ordained a deacon at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston.

On 3 July 2009, Pope Benedict XVI recognised the healing of Deacon Jack Sullivan as a miracle resulting from the intercession of the Venerable Servant of God John Henry Newman, paving the way for his beatification.

On 19 September 2010, in the final Mass of his visit to the United Kingdom, Pope Benedict himself beatified John Henry Newman in Cofton Park near Birmingham. Jack Sullivan was the deacon at the ceremony.