

**AN ESSAY ON BEATIFICATION,
CANONIZATION AND
THE PROCESSES OF THE
CONGREGATION OF RITES**

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An Essay on Beatification, Canonization and the Processes of the Congregation of Rites by F. W. Faber

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F. W. FABER

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POPE BENEDICT XIV.

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CONGREGATION OF RITES.

BY THE
REV. F. W. FABER.



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9, CAPLE STREET, DUBLIN; AND DERBY.

M. D. CCC. XLVIII.

TO
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
THE EARL & COUNTESS OF SHREWSBURY,
THIS ESSAY,
WRITTEN AT THEIR SUGGESTION AND REQUEST,
IS AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED
WITH SENTIMENTS OF DEVOTION AND GRATITUDE
FOR THEIR MORE THAN PARENTAL KINDNESS
IN TIMES OF DIFFICULTY AND TRIAL,
AND FOR THE CONTINUED AND CHEERING EXAMPLE
OF THEIR MANY DOMESTIC VIRTUES,
SO FEELINGLY TESTIFIED
BY THE DAILY BENEDICTIONS OF THE POOR.

ST. WILFRID'S,
FEAST OF OUR BLESSED LADY'S EXPECTATION,
M. D. CCC. XLVII.

ON
BEATIFICATION, CANONIZATION,
AND
THE PROCESSES OF
THE CONGREGATION OF RITES.

THE favourable reception which this Series of the Lives of the Saints has met with, the extensive sale, especially among our Protestant fellow-countrymen, and, so far as we have seen, the uniformly kind favour and indulgent encouragement shown to it by the Catholic press, both of England and America, may perhaps warrant the Editors in venturing a few observations, which would have been premature and out of place before, but have now become due to the continued indulgence of our readers. There are many things which may appear to need some little apology; not only the irregularity of the publication of the early volumes, but also the choice of Lives first put before the public, occasional instances of slovenly translation, ungainly expressions, apparently uncatholic from

a too literal adherence to the original, and here and there phrases which in the Catholic language of a Catholic country are easily intelligible, but which may at first sight appear wanting in controversial accuracy. These it is hoped have been already overlooked by our readers; the difficulty of managing so extensive an undertaking, the uncertain coming in of manuscript, and some other private disadvantages, often leave the Editors hardly their own masters; but all which are much less likely to be felt in the succeeding volumes. But there are matters of more importance than this: the very title of the Series and the provisions of the Prospectus naturally raise questions in the minds of many of our good Protestant readers, and perhaps of Catholic laymen as well, which deserve both an answer and a settlement, and upon which Protestants may be glad to have some little information, and be willing to take it not in spirit of controversy, but simply of information drawn from sources which do not generally fall in the line of their reading. It is of these, if we may do so without presumption, that we wish to say something at present; and the tone of generous admiration and ardent sympathy, with which many of the sons of modern Rome, such as St. Charles Borromeo, St. Francis Xavier, St. Francis of Sales, St. Vincent of Paul, and others, are almost invariably spoken of by English writers, warrant us in supposing that the information contained in the following pages will not be unacceptable to our readers. What is canonization? How