



Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati was born on April 6, 1901 to Alfredo Frassati and Adélaïde Ametis. Frassati's inclinations to help others had manifested in his childhood. There was one occasion as a child when he answered the door to find a mother begging with her son who was shoeless. His response was to take off his shoes and give them to the child. In 1909 his father refused to help a man who came to their door because he was drunk. The sobbing Frassati told his mother of this and she instructed him to find the man and bring him to the home for something to eat.

Frassati was an Italian Catholic activist, dedicated to works of social action that would unite people together in fellowship as a means of combating inequalities.

**He often said:
"Charity is not enough; we need social reform".**

Pier wanted to become a priest, but his mother had other ambitions for him. He began his studies in 1918 in engineering so he could become a mining engineer.

**He wanted to do this in order
"to serve Christ better among the miners".**

Upon his graduation his father offered him either a car or a sizable fund. He chose the latter so he could give it to the poor rather than use it for himself.

He provided a bed for a tuberculosis sufferer on one occasion as well as supporting the three children of an ill widow and finding a place for an evicted woman.

On June 30, 1925, while boating with two friends on the Po River, he began to complain of sharp pains in his back muscles. On July 1, he returned home with a severe headache and a fever. On the very same day, his maternal grandmother died. Because of his sincere humility, he deflected attention from himself, preferring that his family mourn for his grandmother.

On July 2nd, a doctor was summoned and asked the prone Frassati to get up from lying down. Frassati replied: "I can't". Soon a diagnosis was made that he had poliomyelitis, which exacerbated his fatigue. This fatigue prompted him to ask for a morphine shot so he could sleep more easily; however, the doctor and his mother believed the shot to be imprudent.

As Frassati's condition worsened, and it became apparent that he would soon die, he gave his final instructions to his sister. His condition grew to the breaking point at 3:00 am on July 4th when a priest was summoned to give him the Last Rites. He was near death at 4:00 pm with his mother holding him in her arms. His final words were: "May I breathe forth my soul in peace with you".

Frassati died at 7:00 pm on July 4, 1925, due to polio. His parents had expected the elite and political figures to attend the funeral, and many of his friends as well.

Yet all were surprised to find the streets lined with thousands of mourners as the cortege passed, out of the reverence felt for him among the many people he had helped. He was buried in the Frassati plot and his remains were later transferred to Turin Cathedral in 1981 and, upon later inspection, were found to be incorrupt.

The poor of Turin began to petition the Archbishop of Turin to begin the cause for Frassati's canonization. The cause commenced in July 1932 with a thorough examination of Frassati's life in an informative process that later concluded in October 1935 after collecting a range of documentation and witness testimonies. Frassati's writings were also collected for examination to ensure no doctrinal breaches were present since that would impede the cause to a significant degree; theologians cleared them in December 1938.

The formal introduction of the cause came under Pope Paul VI in 1978 and he became titled as a Servant of God.

Frassati was proclaimed to be Venerable on October 23, 1987 after Pope John Paul II authorized a decree confirming that Frassati had lived a model Christian life of heroic virtue.

A single miracle - often a healing, that medicine and science cannot explain - was needed for his beatification. The miracle investigated was the cure of Domenico Sellan in late 1933 who suffered from grave tuberculosis.

A priest visited him on December 28, 1933 to bring him a relic and a picture of Frassati for his intercession.

Sellan was healed of the disease and lived for over three more decades in perfect health.

In 1989 John Paul II visited his tomb and paid honor, calling him the "Man of the Eight Beatitudes".

John Paul II beatified Frassati in Saint Peter's Square on May 20, 1990.

**Pope Benedict XVI called upon adolescents in 2010 to follow the example of Frassati to
"... discover that it is worth to commit oneself for God ... to respond to His call in the fundamental decisions" throughout one's life.**

It was announced by Pope Leo XIV that Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati would be canonized on September 7, 2025, a century and two months after his death, as well as Blessed Carlo Acutis, the first millennial saint along with seven other Blesseds.