



Smithsonian Associates

Making Saints

Kate Bush

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 - 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. ET

Select Bibliography

Useful Websites:

*Articles on Carlo Acutis' journey to sainthood:

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2024/dec/03/miracle-vatican-dicastery-secret-saint-carlo-acutis-pope>

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2025-06/carlo-acutis-and-pier-giorgio-frassati-to-be-canonized-together.html>

*Vatican website, Dicastery for the Causes of the Saints:

<https://www.causesanti.va/it.htm> (note that in Chrome you can translate from Italian by clicking the icon on the right of the address bar)

*Scholar Thomas Head on hagiography (writing about saints):

https://www.hagiographysociety.org/?page_id=678

**Treasures of Heaven*, documentary on relics and reliquaries by Andrew Graham Dixon:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Labi5pUHck>

Primary Historical Sources:

Saints' Lives:

<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/sbook3.asp>

Thomas Head, ed. *Medieval Hagiography: An Anthology* (Routledge, 2001).

Mary-Ellen Stouck, ed. *Medieval Saints: A Reader* (University of Toronto Press, 1998).

Classic Books:

Peter Brown, *The Cult of the Saints: Its Rise and Function in Latin Christianity* (University of Chicago Press, 1981/2015)

Patrick Geary, *Furta Sacra: Thefts of Relics in the Middle Ages* (Princeton University Press, 1991)

Catherine Mooney, ed. *Gendered Voices: Medieval Saints and Their Interpreters* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1999)

André Vauchez, *Sainthood in the Later Middle Ages* (Cambridge University Press, 2005).

Holy Vocabulary!

saint (from *sanctus/sancta*: holy)

the cult of the saints, the communion of saints

feast day

liturgical calendar

*Current steps toward sainthood:

Servant of God

Venerable

Blessed

Saint

miracle (from *miraculum*: little wonder)

shrine

thaumaturgy/thaumaturgical

martyr (from the word for “witness”)

confessor

passio (life of a martyr saint)

hagiography

vita (life of confessor saint)

relics (from *reliquae*: remains)

-three degrees of relics

-reliquaries

popular acclaim

canonization