Dorothy Gets Her Day: Archdiocese Hands Sainthood Cause to Vatican

by Bill Miller, Senior Reporter

MIDTOWN MANHATTAN — Seventeen heavy boxes of documents — part of the case being made for sainthood for Brooklyn-born Dorothy Day — are now signed, sealed, and about to be delivered to the Vatican.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan ceremoniously applied a wax seal to the 17th box during the evening Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral on Dec. 8, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

Servant of God Dorothy Day (1897-1980) was a social activist and journalist who helped create the Catholic Worker movement. Her cause for sainthood informally began in 1997 but was officially launched in 2002.

It now moves to the Vatican’s Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

“She’s one of our great ones,” Cardinal Dolan said that evening. “I hope you’ve heard of her, and if not, let’s change that. Let’s make her a household word in Catholic America because she’s one of the real radiant stars in the pantheon that we call American sanctity.”

Day, born on Pineapple Street in Brooklyn Heights, deepened her Catholic faith in her 20s, choosing to champion Church doctrine on caring for the poor via acts of anarchism and stances that sometimes put her at odds with politicians and top clergy.

That included Cardinal Francis Spellman, the sixth Archbishop of New York.

He bristled at her criticism of how he bust a workers’

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