

‘Real-life miracle created by prayer 40 days after being declared brain dead’

Park Yong-man, former chair of Doosan, introduces story of Mayline, a Korean adopted child in France, in a special documentary on Catholic Peace Broadcasting

“I hope many people will be touched by the miraculous story of a child who was declared brain dead and was cured after 40 days through the prayer of intercession” (轉求 -- the act of asking for grace on behalf of others).

Park Yong-man, 68, a former chair at Doosan Group, who participated as a host in the documentary “Returning from the Dead, Miracle of Mayline,” a two-part Christmas special aired by the Catholic Peace Broadcasting Corp. (CPBC) on Dec. 24, 2024, told Yonhap News Agency in an interview, “This is a drama of miracles made possible by the prayers of the family and others who never let go of hope even though many doctors said she could never recover medically.”

Mayline, the daughter of French Korean adoptee Nathalie In-sil Tran (Korean name: In-sil), was 3 years old in 2012, when she was pronounced brain dead after food got stuck in her throat during a meal and choked her.

The oxygen supply to her brain had slowed down as she waited more than 40 minutes to be transported to the hospital. Doctors recommended euthanasia, but the family refused to give up. They took part in a nine-day prayer in the name of Pauline Marie Jaricot, a devout Catholic who founded a religious order for the 19th-century papal clergy. Tens of thousands of neighbors and parishioners who heard of Mayline’s plight joined in the prayers, and she regained consciousness.

The Vatican officially recognized it as a miracle, and two years ago, Jaricot was beatified, a Catholic pre-sainthood status. Three-year-old Mayline is now a 15-year-old girl, living happily in Annecy, France.

Park proposed the documentary to CPBC

Park, a Catholic, heard about the miracle of Mayline during his visit to the Vatican in May and made a



Park Yong-man (2nd from R), chairman of Walking Together, meets with Mayline’s family in Annecy, France, in October 2024 and looks through an album documenting her brain death and recovery process. (Photo courtesy of Walking Together)

proposal to CPBC for the production of a documentary to share the story with the Korean public.

From October to November, he traveled to 11 cities, including Lyon and Nice in France, Geneva in Switzerland, Rome in Italy and the Vatican, covering 41,000 kilometers, to visit miracle sites, meet with eyewitnesses and witnesses, and capture their stories on film.

The Vatican also granted permission to film three of the Vatican’s key departments: the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Dicastery for Evangelization. A miracle is declared by the Holy See, with the pope’s approval, when it is deemed worthy after theological study and research, when there is an immediate cure without relapse or aftereffects in a situation for which modern medicine has no known cure.



Park speaks with Archbishop Philippe Curbelie (L), Vatican undersecretary of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, during a visit to the Vatican in Rome. (Photo courtesy of Walking Together)



Park (L) examines the miracle documents of Mayline in the Vatican's archive of miracle documents in the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

“It was only recently that the story became known because it was recognized as a miracle after observing that Mayline was cured and did not relapse for a long time,” Park explained.

Vatican declares it miracle after papal approval

During the filming process, Park met with seven Vatican prelates, including the highest authority on Catholic miracles. Cardinal Yeom Soo-jung wrote a letter of recommendation, saying, “I hope this documentary will be a precious Christmas gift to renew our faith.”

After serving as chairman of Doosan Group and chairman of the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Park dedicated himself to volunteer work and has served as the chairman of the foundation Walking Together since 2020, leading various projects to help the underprivileged, including delivering meals to the elderly living alone.

Park said that participating in the documentary made him feel warm and peaceful.

“We all have anxiety and nervousness about our circumstances, and it is humbling and comforting to witness a miracle that cannot be explained in words,” he said.

“The Vatican officially recognizes about 10 miracles every year, but if you add the ones that go unreported and those witnessed by other religions, there are countless miracles happening all around us,” Park said. “Seeing the miracles of healing that modern medicine cannot solve made me realize how small we are in the face of nature, the universe and God’s providence.”

Mayline’s story is now a book in France

The story of Mayline’s miracle has been published in France and will be translated and released early next year by the Korean publishing company Maumsanchaek under the title “The Miracle of Mayline’s Return from the Dead.”

“I want to help her see and feel her mother’s home country, Korea, as it really is,” said Park, who plans to invite Mayline and her family to visit next

spring. “I would like to help her grow up with a connection to Korea.”

He hopes to continue helping the underprivileged for as long as his health permits.

“When you help others, you may look clumsy and foolish at first, but that is also when you love it the most,” he said. “It is important not to show off and to stay grounded.”

“The miracle of resisting the recommendation of euthanasia was probably due to the mother’s will and faith to never let go of her children, as she was adopted,” Park said. “If I had the chance, I would like to help her find her mother’s birth family so that she can resolve that bitterness.” [▶](#)



A special documentary titled “Returning from the Dead, Miracle of Mayline,” which was aired by the Catholic Peace Broadcasting Corp. (Photo courtesy of Walking Together)