



December 2024 - Chairman's Corner

Friends – Where has 2024 gone? Here we are in Advent with Christmas just days away. What a blessing that we can once again prepare for and then celebrate the birth of our Lord. When I think about it, I am amazed and thankful that our Church has recognized and provided a drumbeat of faith for us to walk, and it is this drumbeat that Father Vincent brought to his Marines in Vietnam. He gave the sacraments and even a nativity scene during Advent (see photo) bringing them closer to the normality of home and farther from the terror of war. He gave them what their souls needed and never shied away – even freely giving his life to provide Last Rites.



Looking beyond Christmas towards 2025, things are moving forward in Rome and we have recently received several new testimonies that just add to Father Vincent's reputation of sanctity - see details below. Just another thing to be thankful for during the Holy Season of Advent.

Merry Christmas and God bless,
Steve Stanley

Rome Status: Recall that in May of this year, Archbishop Broglio sealed and mailed answers to the questions posed by the Theological Consultants in 2022. The package was received and there has been an ongoing dialogue between Rome and our Archdiocese to verify all materials and references. Recently, Archbishop Broglio and our Postulator, Dr. Nicola Gori, visited the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints and met with leadership to better

understand the status of our submission. Simply stated, "everything is in order" and a new group of Theological Consultants is being assembled to review our Cause. I am hopeful that we will be able to establish a rough timeline as this new group takes shape.

Reputation of Sanctity:

One of the factors that is considered in the canonization process relates to an individual's reputation of sanctity (in Latin, "fama"). It is interesting that even fifty-seven years after his death we are still hearing from new individuals who knew Father Vincent but more than just knowing him, he affected them profoundly in ways they still remember today. But maybe more importantly, these examples show how a Guild member's recounting of Father Vincent's story or the simple gesture of giving a prayer card or DVD triggers the person's reflection or changes their lives. Here are two examples:

- A hospice nurse was providing care for one of Father Vincent's relatives and learned about Father Vincent. Subsequently, the nurse passed on Father Vincent's story to a grandfather whose grandchild had been born with an extremely rare brain malformation. The grandfather started praying daily for Father's intercession. Six brain surgeries later, the granddaughter celebrated her first birthday.



- This quote is from a Marine who was with Father Vincent. It shows how a simple gesture – in this case, the gift of our DVD Called and Chosen - might key a reflection or memory from someone. "...I was on Operation Swift with the First

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Battalion, 7th Marines, B Company. We lost Marines crossing a river who drowned. Somehow, Father Capodanno miraculously found the Marines and performed Last Rites. Father Capodanno is certainly a Saint, a Servant of God, the Navy, Marines and the United States. I'm honored to have known Him, a true hero."

Spreading the word about Father Vincent

- A presentation on Father Capodanno's heroic life was given to the Knights of Columbus in Yorkville, IL on 10 October. The presentation was well attended by more than 60 knights, spouses and parishioners and well received.
- A Guild member presented a framed lithograph to the Laurens, SC Knights of Columbus Father Capodanno Council and distributed prayer cards. A second presentation is planned at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Greenwood, SC as soon as hurricane Helene storm recovery allows.



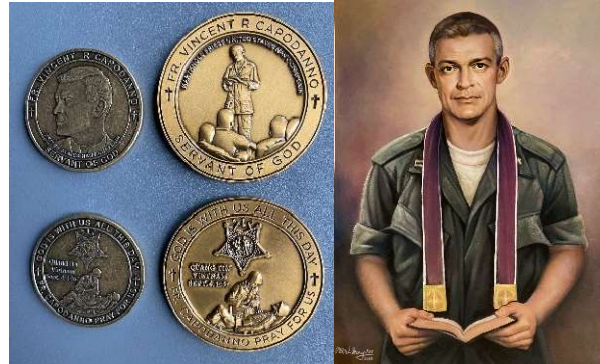
- There were numerous presentations over the last few months, and all were well received. Of note, one of the presentations was conducted over ZOOM, it worked great, and we would like to expand this opportunity. If you would like a presentation about Father Capodanno and his life of heroic virtue, just send us a request through the website or reach out directly to Don Campbell, donald.b.campbell.jr@gmail.com. We try to provide the presentation in person; however, if we don't have a presenter available in your area, we can present via ZOOM. If you are interested, we would be happy to work with you.

Video Links: Recently one of our supporters sent some video links that he found. We wanted to pass them on to you:

- You have probably seen this one. It is Chris Stefanick who always does a good job. www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILR-rJYPIQo

- Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal Word: www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2qcamqvPUO
- Father J. Marcel Portelli: www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWHZSiOE-eO

New Website: I hope you have taken some time to explore our new website. If not, do it now. The only thing that is the same is our website address: <https://www.capodannoguild.org/> and be sure to check out our new products:



The smaller Challenge Coin is 1.5 inches and the larger is 2 inches in diameter. They are \$10 each. The new lithograph image is 15X22 inches (better suited for public display) and it is \$75. All other products continue to be available: the *Called and Chosen* DVD for \$20, the 9X12 inch lithograph for \$40 and prayer cards.

Final thought: At this special time of year, we are reminded in many ways of Father Capodanno:

- Father Vincent had only recently arrived in Taiwan in 1958 serving as a Maryknoll Missionary when he offered his first Christmas Mass for those he would serve for the next 7 years.
- As we look to the coming New Year, we wish each other Happy New Year in Italian by saying, "Buon Capodanno."
- A few short weeks later we celebrate Father's birthday on 13 February, the eve of Valentine's Day.

Father Capodanno's life of love and sacrifice for the people of Taiwan and the Marines he served as a Navy chaplain, remind us each and every holiday season how blessed we are to be able to continue to spread Father's story and support the Cause.

From Your Guild Board of Directors: As you welcome the baby Jesus into your homes, we ask God and His Servant Father Vincent Capodanno to bless you and your loved ones in a special way this Christmas season and keep you safe in the New Year.

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