



FATHER CAPODANNO GUILD



September 2025 - Chairman's Corner

Friends – With the Father Vincent Memorial Mass, September is always spiritually fulfilling, but it is BUSY. As I reflect on our efforts, the keystone was the Memorial Mass. We celebrated on the 58th anniversary of Father's death on that battlefield in Vietnam but Archbishop Broglio lifted us from the battlefield by reflecting on Father Vincent's extraordinary gifts and talents and how we can use them to inspire our own lives. Even if you watched the Mass on EWTN, I encourage you to go back and listen to the homily again. Here is the link to the Mass [Memorial Mass](#) and the homily starts at about 24 minutes and 30 seconds into the video. In his homily Archbishop Broglio points out, "Father Capodanno on the battlefield knew that he brought something that no one else could bring. He brought the Sacraments, the life-giving presence of Jesus Christ, to those both in extreme danger or at the point of death. His was a fidelity to a unique presence. As we say, he operated in Persona Christi. He brought Jesus Christ to those in peril. There is no other explanation for his presence on that final battlefield of his existence. It was not the gesture of a cowboy for a rodeo, it was an act of love based on the promises he made at ordination.....His ultimate act of charity was an embrace of the cross of Christ for the good of others, despite the bullets. It was truly an imitation of Christ."

That was just one of many amazing quotes from his homily. Please, go back and listen to it again.

God bless, Steve Stanley

Rome Status: You may recall that our Postulator in Rome is Dr. Gori and that he is also the Postulator for the newly canonized Saint, Carlo Acutis. With his canonization behind us, Dr. Gori can once again focus on our Cause. Archbishop Broglio is planning a visit to see him in Rome. Next steps involve establishment of a group of Theological Consultants and the review of our most recent submission. Please pray that Dr. Gori will guide our Cause wisely.

U.S. Naval Academy Events: Two days before the Memorial Mass the Catholic Midshipmen Club hosted a Father Vincent presentation where over 140 midshipmen came to hear about our Grunt Padre. The next morning, they met for the annual "Capodanno Workout" at sunrise. Then they showed up in force at the Memorial Mass. It is heartening to see how Father Vincent inspires these future Navy and Marine Corps leaders. Here are some photos:



You Never Know Where You'll Find Father Vincent:

- Real Life Catholic and Chris Stefanick remembered Father Vincent on the anniversary of his death: "Today marks 58 years since the death of Father Vincent Capodanno....His Marines loved him because he always made a point of being with them on the front line, in the thick of battle. One battle broke out where 500 Marines were surrounded by 2,500 members of the North Vietnamese Army. People who survived that day describe the noise of gunfire as sounding like Niagara Falls. And there, in the midst of the chaos, was their chaplain. One man....was hit with shrapnel and was lying on the ground, terrified. When Father Capodanno got to him, a bubble of peace descended. All sound died away. All he heard was the chaplain's voice. 'God is with us.

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Someone will get you out.' He lived to tell it, but Father Capodanno didn't make it out that day. He was running to minister to a medic and was shot 27 times in the back. He got the Medal of Honor. The U.S.S. Capodanno was named after him. He's been declared 'Servant of God' by the Catholic Church—the first step toward canonization. His name is on the Vietnam War memorial. The only way to see it is to kneel. The way he died is a reminder of how we're supposed to live."

- On 14 Sep the Seton Shrine in Emmitsburg, MD celebrated the 50th anniversary of her canonization with an exhibit that celebrates "American Saints on their Way." Father Vincent was represented and Bishop Coffey (from the Archdiocese for the Military Services) was able to bless an attendee with Father Vincent's cap.



- The Director of Children's Faith Formation at an Indiana parish remembered the 11 Sep 2001 terrorist attack by honoring Father Vincent, "Father Capodanno recognized that he couldn't deny the reality of evil or stop it, but he could bring Christ into the midst of the worst of it, just as the Lord did when he made His way to the Cross. The holy priest brought Christ's light into the darkness of war and sacrificed his life to follow Christ completely."

Father Vincent - still influencing souls:

From a supporter: "Father has come through for us for our last 2 babies and I found out that I was pregnant with #7 and due in September.... However, God has other plans and our son was born on August

22, the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. On day 5 we noticed that he had a cold and day 7 and 8 we also noticed we couldn't get his jaundice levels down. We were advised to take him to the ER on day 8. While in the ER it was discovered that his jaundice levels were fine however his oxygen levels were dropping to 70, and he was admitted to the NICU. I moved into the hospital with him and on day 2 there was still no improvement and I got to thinking of Father, at first I think I told him to fix this and that I wanted to be out of here by the 4th. Then I looked up his prayer and said it once a day. Our son had nuns, priests and lay people praying for him, however his conditions did not improve until I finally called upon Father. He was released from the hospital on September 3rd."

Spreading the word about Father Vincent: You can help us spread the word about Father Vincent. Please consider sponsoring a presentation at your parish or Knights of Columbus Council. If you would like a presentation, just send us a request through our website or reach out directly to Don Campbell at 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.

Products that will help you spread the word:

- The Guild offers two sizes of the portrait of Father Vincent. The 9x12 lithograph is available for a minimum donation of \$40. It is a meaningful gift which can be displayed in a home or smaller meeting space. The recently introduced larger 15x22 lithograph, useful for churches, meeting halls and other public spaces, is available for a minimum donation of \$75.
- *Called and Chosen*, our award winning DVD is available for a donation of \$20, either as a hard copy or by on-line streaming via our website <https://www.capodannoguild.org/stream/>.
- Two Challenge Coins: the smaller is 1.5 inches and the larger is 2 inches in diameter. They are \$10 each.

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