



FATHER CAPODANNO GUILD



March 2021 - Chairman's Corner

Members — This is an exciting time. We are halfway through Lent in the first-ever year devoted to St. Joseph, and the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints in Rome is starting to pick up where it left off before the COVID shutdown. In fact, the Congregation is reviewing two Medal of Honor recipient Catholic Chaplains — Father Kapaun and Father Capodanno. Would it not be great if the Holy Father approved a finding of Heroic Virtue and bestowed the title of Venerable Servant of God on both during this special year? My wife, Jean, and I are consecrating ourselves to St. Joseph using a book written by Father Donald Calloway. I find it immensely powerful as I study St. Joseph and compare Father Vincent's courage, faithfulness, and patience to St. Joseph's. And, as St. Joseph is "Patron of the Dying," I see Father Vincent's care for the souls of the men he served, especially for the dying, as following the spirituality of St. Joseph in a powerful way. We are truly blessed.

God bless, Steve Stanley

Next Steps / Way Ahead:

- Rome Update: The next major step is for the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to convene a meeting of the Theological Consultants to review the *Positio* (the formal position of Father Vincent's life works). Hopefully, the result of this meeting will be a recommendation to the Holy Father to approve a finding of Heroic Virtue and bestow the title of "Venerable Servant of God" on Father Vincent.
- As processes in Rome start to thaw, it is time for us to look forward. If Father's Cause is found worthy by the Holy Father, our next steps will be to establish a final resting place for Father's earthly remains. The location will be selected by Archbishop Broglio, and we are working closely

with him. We have engaged an architecture firm to provide a detailed study focused on three areas that will include rough order-of-magnitude total costs. There are many considerations, but we have focused on function, size, and cost.

- Function: There are two principal functions – an area for prayerful reflection near Father's remains and an area for display of the many artifacts that we have in our possession.
- Size: We need to comfortably accommodate a modest number of visitors for most of the year while allowing efficient expansion during special occasions – like the annual September Memorial Mass that the Archdiocese holds to remember Father's death.
- Cost: We are going to keep this reasonable, but we intend to support a level of trim that establishes an appropriate atmosphere of reverence.
- Obviously, there is much to be done and, at the right time, we will launch a focused campaign to keep you informed of our progress, allow your inputs, and request your financial support.

Spreading the Word:

- Recall that we established a "Young Audience Advisory Group" to help us bring the next generations into our Cause. This group of Naval Academy Midshipmen and one Ensign advised us to expand our social media presence with the launch of our new Instagram site. Please join us there and follow the story, together with our current Father Capodanno Guild Facebook page. We would especially like to hear of any favors received through Father's intercession.
- On 21 January, Cardinal Dolan led a ribbon-cutting dedication of the Father Vincent Capodanno Catholic Academy on Staten Island. His Eminence included a blessing of the Father

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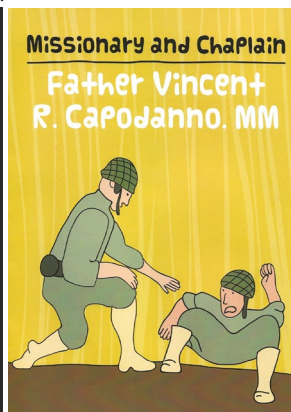
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Capodanno statue in the lobby. The academy opened in September after the merger of Holy Rosary and St. Adalbert Schools for the 2020-2021 school year.



- Two more products from people who are working to spread Father Vincent's story to our young audience. On the left is a young reader's (ages 8 to 12) book that tells the story of Father Vincent. It is available on Amazon. You can contact the author: Capodanno212@gmail.com. On the right is a coloring book illustrated by the Junior Guild of Artists from St. Joseph Catholic Academy in Long Island, New York.



- As more of us get our COVID vaccinations, it is time to restart presentations. Like many of you, we have used Zoom to stay in contact with family and friends during the lockdown and are working to establish a Zoom conference capability that will allow us to conduct presentations into areas of the country where we do not have local presenters. If you are interested in a presentation (local or remote), contact donald.b.campbell.jr@gmail.com. Don is our vice-chairman and will make it happen.
- You can help us spread the word with quality gifts in return for your donation. Two are

available: Our DVD, Called and Chosen, is available for a minimum donation of \$20 each (please let us know how many you want). Our 9x12 inch lithograph is available for a minimum donation of \$40 each. Make your donation today at <https://www.capodannoguild.org/>.

Last Thoughts:

- You know, we have much to do but occasionally experience the grace of peace. Our last Board of Directors meeting was one of those times. We had several of our honorary board members in attendance, and as we discussed the challenges of financing the final resting place for Father Vincent's remains, one of them spoke up in a voice of excitement and offered \$1000 "right now." What a gesture of confidence and support. If you would like to be more involved, please contact us via our website.
- Recently we received a donation made with postage stamps. You might find this odd at first; but, as the story unfolded, we found that the donor was a man who after years of coverup, pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter in the death of his wife. Interestingly, this man had served on the USS Capodanno while in the Navy and had also served in Iraq. He admits suffering from PTSD. A Catholic War Veterans' post, which happens to be named after Father Vincent, routinely visited the prison, and made an impression on the incarcerated veterans they met with. Then, on an occasion when a priest was visiting and hearing Confession, this prisoner, a lapsed Catholic, felt motivated to go. One cannot but think that Father Vincent assisted this man on that day and at that moment when he asked himself, "What sins should I confess to? Certainly not the one that I am in prison for. What would the priest think of me? I was physically trembling. 'Forgive me Father, for I have sinned...'" But he did confess that sin which had been weighing on him for many years. He recalls, "I wept. I felt a rebirth as the dark spot on my soul was now gone." That same love for souls that Father Vincent poured out in Vietnam was offered by the priest to our prisoner. May God continue to bless our priests.

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