



Reputation of Sanctity

A candidate considered for beatification and canonization must have enjoyed a reputation by a significant number of people of having reflected a virtuous life. This status or Fama is a spontaneous, stable widespread expression among trustworthy people and is one of the major criteria for the initiation of a Cause.

Since his death over fifty years ago, Father Capodanno has inspired enduring love and respect from thousands of people. They wish to honor his memory and have chosen specific and eloquent ways to honor the holiness that this man of God radiated in his lifetime and afterwards. In subsequent update newsletters, the Guild Board will provide the supporters of the Cause, our Guild membership, with such examples of his Fama.

Last year, fifth graders at St. Joseph Catholic Academy in Long Island City, NY conducted research detailing the process of canonization. After this initial investigation, each student was assigned a fellow New Yorker who is on the path to sainthood. Dressed in battlefield fatigues and a stole to portray Father Vincent Capodanno, M.M, one young man, presented to the audience of fellow students, staff and family members the life of The Grunt Padre. This event was featured on the Diocese of Brooklyn television news broadcast *Currents*.

The enthusiastic response by the Father Vincent Capodanno Guild led the members to expand the project this year, so sixth and seventh graders who are members of the Aquinas Society decided to continue interest in Father Vincent Capodanno by utilizing their individual talents. The artists created a coloring book explaining Father's life. The gardeners were able to successfully propagate coleus plants and had a very successful plant



sale for St. Patrick's Day; the students sent the money collected to the Father Capodanno Guild. And the composters plan to grow herbs which again will provide donations to the Guild.

The students are also currently preparing oral reports and creating different display boards which they will share at the end of the academic year. One of the creations, a stained-glass window of Father Vincent, will be at the exhibit when the artist team explains how they created this memorial piece and also the coloring book which they hope to publish.

In another elementary school just a few boroughs away on Staten Island, the students of St. Adalbert School will participate in an annual American History Exhibition in May. This year in an effort to promote patriotism and build faith among the Catholic community on Staten Island, they will share the story of Father Capodanno with the other 24 schools involved.

As the principal so powerfully stated, "We will continue to aid the Guild in its mission and are praying that Father Capodanno's Cause will be furthered in our lifetime. It is humbling to know that we walk the same streets in the neighborhood that Father Vincent did."