



# FATHER CAPODANNO GUILD



## September 2020 - Chairman's Corner

Members – My duty on Sunday, 6 September at 1000 was to represent all of you with Mary Preece at the Father Capodanno Memorial Mass 53 years after his death on 4 September 1967. What an awesome responsibility. Father Vincent died for the love of souls – the souls of his Marines. It is striking that a similar love of souls motivates each member of our Guild – a love of Father Vincent's soul and a love for all of the souls that will come to know our Grunt Padre if he is elevated as a Canonized Saint – worthy of emulation and veneration. I feel certain that exposure to Father Vincent will change their lives just as it did for the men in Vietnam. Because of COVID, Archbishop Broglio combined the Mass for Father Vincent with the 26th Annual Memorial Mass. This celebration took place in the main chapel of the Edwin Cardinal O'Brien Pastoral Center. It was a small, but powerful, ceremony that started with the Liturgy of the Hours. We were all social distancing and Mary and I were seated in the back of the Chapel. In front of us were Archbishop Broglio, Bishop Spencer, Bishop Coffey, and several other concelebrating archdiocesan priests. Then there were about 20 of the almost 40 co-sponsored seminarians. The number of religious present was a huge statement about the importance of our Cause, and his Excellency's teaching were insightful. Founding his thoughts in the liturgical readings, he illuminated several themes. The theme that really hit home for me was about leadership and how each of us has a responsibility to lead. He used Father Vincent as an example of a true leader. One who found his way to the battlefield because that was where his Marines

needed him to be. He provided for his Marines in the way that only he could – giving comfort and the sacraments – and with these gifts, he prepared their souls for Eternity. What an amazing example of truly selfless, pure leadership. Then as the gifts were presented, I was privileged to carry a combat helmet containing the petitions that many of you submitted. Archbishop Broglio accepted the petitions and placed them near the altar so that all present recognized and remembered them. The highlight was the celebration of the Eucharist. I must admit that I became emotional considering how Christ sacrificed Himself for us and the amazing parallel of Father Vincent's sacrifice for his Marines. As we left the Pastoral Center, I thought of all of you who faithfully support our Cause but because of COVID, could not be at Mass with us this year. God willing, we will be back to normal for the 2021 celebration – hope to see you there.

God bless, Steve Stanley



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### **Spreading the Word:**

Our effort to produce an audio story about Father Vincent's life has completed and the result is beautiful. The producer, "Our American Stories" shared, "We've gotten awesome feedback from folks! Even more so than most of our stories." We hope that you have had the opportunity to hear it but if not, here is the link:

<https://www.ouramericannetwork.org/story?title=The-Unlikely-Medal-of-Honor-Recipient-A-Catholic-Priest-d-1967>

### **Quantico Chapel Donation:**



On 6 September Guild Board member Tom Draude presented a portrait of Father Capodanno to the main chapel at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, VA. Tom was introduced by Father Gerald Kasule who reminded the congregation that the placement of the portrait at the entrance of the main chapel ensures all who enter, regardless of their religion, will be met by The Grunt Padre.

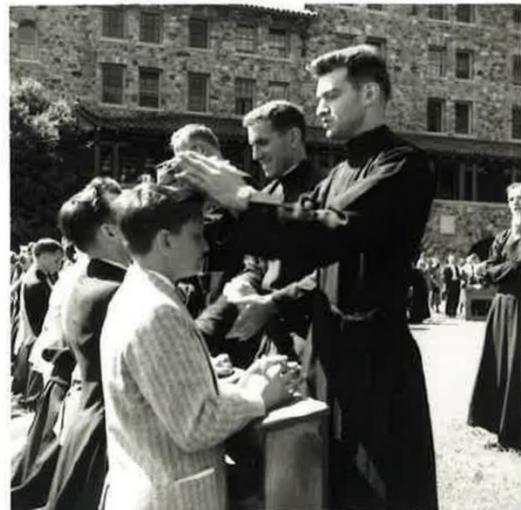
### **Quick notes:**

- Because of the COVID restrictions, work on Father Vincent's Cause in Rome has significantly slowed. Our next 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). But there will be a logjam as they try to recover from a lost year. In the past, there has been a precedence established that prioritizes those causes that have already completed and submitted an inquiry for a

potential miracle. Recall that the Diocese of Palm Beach, FL submitted one for Father Vincent's Cause in August of 2019. We are praying that this precedence holds.

- Even with COVID, Masses for Father Vincent were celebrated in Joliet, IL, Staten Island, NY, and Harrisburg, PA. Thanks for letting us know and for the photographs.
- Father Capodanno Lithographs - The larger prints have all been distributed, but the 9x12 version is still available for a donation of \$40 via the website <https://www.capodannoguild.org>. DVDs of the documentary on the life and heroic death of Father Capodanno, "Called and Chosen", continue to be available for a donation of \$20. As you make your donations please specify your request for the 9x12 portrait, or number of DVDs.
- Reminder: You can help us save money!! If you are getting this newsletter by snail mail and you use email, PLEASE contact Mary Preece ([mpreece@milarch.org](mailto:mpreece@milarch.org)) and give her your email address. We will add you to our electronic distribution and save the cost of postage.

### **Special Interest**



Recently, one of Father Vincent's classmates submitted this photo of Father in June of 1958, the day after his ordination to the Priesthood. This is the famous Departure Ceremony at Maryknoll and Father is giving his first blessing. He is embarking on a journey through Taiwan to a battlefield in Vietnam. Notice the intensity on his face.

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