

July 2010

Dear Supporters of the Cause for Fr. Vincent Capodanno's Canonization:

Since the official announcement in May 2006 proclaiming Fr. Vincent R. Capodanno, MM as Servant of God, hundreds of people have contacted our office soliciting information, requesting prayer cards and sharing personal accounts of answered prayers attributed through Fr. Capodanno's intercession. Such overwhelming acceptance of his reputation for holiness reflects Thomas Merton's words, "Christ established His Church, among other reasons, in order that men might lead one another to Him and in the process sanctify themselves and one another. For in this work it is Christ Who draws us to Himself through the action of our fellow men."

Now almost 43 years since his death, Fr. Capodanno carries on his missionary's work in radiating Christ as evidenced by the many testimonies both public and personal that arrive weekly. In May of this year, Rep. Michael McMahon of Staten Island and a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee sponsored an amendment encouraging the US Navy to name a naval combat vessel after Fr. Capodanno. The Knights of Columbus continue to honor Fr. Capodanno; Assembly 3243 has organized in the East Cooper Region of Charleston, SC, bringing the total number to four councils and eight assemblies that bear his name. And many have provided very powerful accounts relating how Fr. Capodanno has impacted you and your loved ones with physical, emotional and spiritual healing.

With the recently established Fr. Capodanno link on the Archdiocese for the Military website: www.milarch.org, there now exists a cyberspace "bulletin board" containing valuable material about Fr. Capodanno and his Cause for Canonization. Please refer to it, and feel free to report any answered prayers to my email address below. This link will contain updates of special events such as the annual Memorial Mass commemorating the anniversary of Fr. Capodanno's heroic death. The mass will occur on Thursday evening, September 2, 2010, at 7:00 PM in the Crypt Chapel of the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services will be the main celebrant. Use my email address to indicate that you will attend. For those of you in the Northeast, there will be a Memorial Mass at the Fr. Vincent Capodanno Chapel, Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island on Sunday, September 5 at 9:00 AM.

Significant advancement of the Cause has occurred. Gathering witnesses' evidence is a critical aspect of the diocesan phase and will corroborate the previous material that Fr. Daniel Mode presented in The Grunt Padre, the biography of Fr. Capodanno. Monsignor Thomas Olszyk, Promoter of Justice, has begun meeting with several family members, friends and Marines who knew Fr. Capodanno personally, can attest to his virtuous qualities, and have offered presented their recollections of him.

Many of you have inquired about how to assist the progress of the Cause. As always, we truly appreciate your kind support by "spreading the word" about Fr. Capodanno, distributing prayer cards (over 70,000 to date), and contributing financially. Your donations will offset the traveling expenses incurred from witness interviews and the future cost of document printing that Rome requires

In closing, I would like to share with you part of a compelling email I just received from a woman suffering from cancer. She writes, "I made a trip to Staten Island and prayed on Fr. Vincent's grave. The biopsy I had a few days later for possible recurrence of thyroid cancer showed that one previously identified mass was gone, and the second identified mass was actually a lymph node...I am SO very grateful to Father for interceding with the Lord on my behalf....Please pray that I am able to obtain what is necessary to bring attention to Father Vincent and glory to the mercy and power of God."

And with that eloquent personal testimony, I thank you once again for all your kind encouragement as together we support this earthly project with its magnificent goal of beatification and canonization.

May Our Lord and His Servant Vincent Capodanno watch over you always.

Sincerely,

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