

July 2011

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

As evidenced by the recent beatification of Pope John Paul II, the canonization process truly recognizes the will of the people. Within days of his death, people privileged to know Father Vincent Capodanno, MM personally, attested to his innate holiness, humility and heroism. Through the recollections of his family members, classmates, friends, fellow Maryknollers and the Marines he served in Vietnam, a consensus clearly reveals that Father Capodanno emulated Christ in his everyday witness. Despite the hardships he endured, he maintained his sense of humor and appreciation of life – an outlook based on a sincere and deeply rooted faith. In the five years since he was recognized as a Servant of God, we continue to verify Father Capodanno's widespread reputation of sanctity through interviews for personal testimony, examination of his writings, and investigation of reported favors through his intercession.

From those suffering with life-threatening illnesses to those requesting his assistance with lesser trials, daily correspondence reflects that even now the "Grunt Padre" profoundly impacts all who are familiar with his devotion to God and his total sacrifice to his fellow man. Favorable responses include a Marine Corps General's recovery from cancer, a grandmother whose infant grandson began eating after turning away food for many days, and a gentleman recuperating from prostate surgery who remarked, "It is a great joy to know I have a Navy chaplain advocating for me in heaven."

Since 2006, we have distributed 80,000 prayer cards; the powerful prayer, resonating with so many, has provided consolation and comfort. An Army major wrote, "My unit is deploying to Afghanistan in a few weeks, and I would like to obtain some prayer cards for my Catholic soldiers." A long time and ardent supporter of the Cause who brings Holy Communion to the wounded warriors at Bethesda Naval Hospital, shares the cards with them, for she "knows that Father Vincent has a special place in his heart for these wounded service men and women especially the Marines. A frequent correspondent reported that she "sent Pope Benedict a prayer card in her Christmas greetings" - surely such promotion to the Holy Father can't but help the Cause!

Dedications, memorial services and special events honoring Father Capodanno have marked this past year or will occur in upcoming months. On May 11, 2011, the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation dedicated the "Sacrifice Window" in the Semper Fidelis Memorial Chapel at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in his name. In acknowledgment of the 44th anniversary of his death, a Memorial Mass for Father Capodanno will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 6 September 2011, at the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception; the Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, Archbishop for the Military Services, will be the main celebrant. To ensure sufficient seating, **please contact me if you plan to attend at the phone number or email address below.**

The annual Memorial Mass at the Fort Wadsworth chapel will occur on Sunday, September 4 at 9:00 a.m. Tunnel to Towers, a Staten Island based foundation that assists service members and their families, will sponsor a golf tournament and dinner on Veteran's Day, November 11, with Father Capodanno as its first honoree. On November 13 the 20th annual Red, White and Blue Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral Norwich, CT, will also recognize Father Capodanno.

Many of you have asked what you can do to support Father Capodanno's Cause for Canonization. Kindly report any favors from intercessory prayers to me. Share with others how Father Capodanno radiated Christ in his life and in his death; interesting information about him and the Cause is available on line at the Archdiocese for the Military Services revised website: www.milarch.org. under the *Offices* link. And, if possible, please financially contribute to ensure advancement of this worthy project.

As we pray for his beatification and eventual canonization, may Servant of God Vincent Capodanno intercede for us and inspire us to follow his example of courage and selfless love.

Sincerely,

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