



Catholic War Veterans of the USA
Father Vincent Capodanno Memorial Post
To Heal, Serve, Love, Listen

Forty-sixth Edition

est. 11/24/2015

December 2019



Father Vincent Robert Capodanno, M.M.

MEETING NOTICE

Due to the first Wednesday in January being New Year Day,

there will not be a meeting in January

NEXT MEETING IS WEDNESDAY

February 5 AT 7:00 PM

At Our Lady of Mercy Country Home

2115 Maturana Dr.

Liberty MO 64068

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Good news from heaven the angels bring,
Glad tidings to the earth they sing:
To us this day a child is given,
To crown us with the joy of heaven.



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DUES

The dues are starting to come in, just eight more to reach 100 percent.. If you wish to become a life member, let me know. I will send you the application. The schedule of amount due, according to age, is on the application. Just fill it out and mail it to me with a check made out to our post, CWV Post 1974, for half, or all, of the amount due. I will then make out a check for the amount due National and mail that check along with the application, which I have to sign, to national and they will mail you your life membership card. Then you can pay so much a month for the rest of what is due.

Thank You

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Wishing all a very merry and holy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

The New Year

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Having served during the Vietnam war, and being in the war zone, away from home, family and friends, I really developed a deep respect for our chaplains. Several times I watched a chaplain being lowered from the chopper onto the fantail of my ship. It was rather scary if we happened to be in rough waters. And then, to read about the heroics of our chaplains who happened to be station in a war zone, right in the middle of harms way, like Father Capodannos, our names sake.

Just a couple of years ago we started out on an adventure. We decided that over the course of the year we would send "Thank You" letters to every chaplain serving our military, veterans, and/or their families. This is how it works. We contact the Catholic Center and ask for the latest list of military chaplains from the latest edition of the Catholic Directory.

The we write a personal letter to each chaplain, place the letter, along with a Fr. Capodanno prayer card, in an envelope, write the chaplain's name on the front, place our return address lable on the envelope, a postage stamp, and when we get a batch together, we send them off to the Archdiocese for the Military Services. The Archdiocese will then add the mailing address and send the letters to the chaplains. This is the only way we are able to send anything to the chaplains.

Every once in a while we will receive a response. I even received a phone call from a chaplain who was deployed at the time. We also a request from time to time to assist them with prayercards, medals, rosaries, etc. which we try out best to do.

Our biggest problem is money. Postage really takes a toll, as well as the cost of printer ink. Hopefully, duing this upcoming year we will be able to have some fundraisers to help with the costs.

Any and all contributions are welcomed.

Speaking of Father Capodanno, the followin article was published in the fall edition of "The Serving Brother" published by the Knights of Malta for Catholic Spirituality for the Incarcerated.

Fr. Vincent Capodanno, the "Grunt Padre," on the Path to Sainthood

By Pope John Paul II

Saints are normal human beings who, after their deaths, have gone to heaven and are in the presence of God. We know some of their names well, but the fact is that everyone in heaven can be called a saint.

For centuries, to be officially recognized for sainthood by the Catholic Church, it needed to be shown that a person heroically lived a good Christian life or had been killed while defending Christian beliefs. A third way to be recognized for sainthood by the Church was where there was evidence of strong devotion among faithful people to a holy man or woman. For these holy men and women, the pope could skip the formalities and declare them to be saints.

In 2017, Pope Francis approved a fourth pathway to public recognition of sainthood: giving one's life in a heroic act of loving service to others. The pope approved consideration for sainthood for those who heroically and freely risked their lives and died prematurely because of an extreme act of love for another. This path to sainthood comes directly from the Bible in the Gospel of St. John chapter 15, verse 13: "Greater love has no man than this, than to lay down his life for his friends."



Pope Francis opened the way to sainthood for many people who gave up their lives in amazing acts of love. One such person was Fr. Vincent Robert Capodanno. Fr. Capodanno was born in 1929 in Staten Island, New York. He was the tenth child of Italian immigrants. Through the example of his parents, Vincent experienced the value of hard work, togetherness of family, and, most especially, love of their Catholic faith.

World War II affected Vincent personally with three of his brothers serving in the military. Often before his high school classes and through his college years, Vincent attended morning weekday Mass. At a spiritual retreat, he confided in a friend that he had thought of becoming a Catholic missionary priest. Like many young adults of that time, Vincent had heard of the priests of the Catholic Foreign Mission Society, the Maryknolls. After nine years of spiritual and educational preparation to fulfill the orders mission to "Go and Teach All Nations," Vincent completed his training and was ordained a priest in 1958. Father Capodanno was assigned to serve the native people of Taiwan, an island off mainland China. He arrived on the island in 1959, and immediately began studying the difficult language and learning the culture of the Taiwanese people. While serving that community, Father Capodanno administered the sacraments, taught the people, and distributed food and medicine. Although he struggled while trying to fully understand their language, he developed the ability to listen closely in responding to his parishioners.

After several years in Taiwan, Father Capodanno was transferred to Hong Kong, a decision he did not expect nor want. Fr. Capodanno's calling was to serve Gods people, so he did his best to accept Gods new mission. However, he soon recognized that God was calling him to serve the U.S. Marine troops in Vietnam. Eventually he was allowed to join the Navy. Father Capodanno reported to the 7th Marines in Vietnam in 1966. As the Chaplain, his immediate focus was the young enlisted troops or "Grunts." He was transferred to a medical unit, but Fr. C was more than a priest ministering within the horrific arena of war. He became a constant companion to the Marines, living, eating, and sleeping in the same conditions as the men. He started libraries, gathered and distributed gifts and organized outreach programs for the local villagers. He spent hours reassuring the weary and disillusioned, consoling the grieving, hearing confessions, instructing Marines who wanted to become Catholic, and distributing St. Christopher medals.

Such work was Fr. Capodanno's true calling, and when his tour in Vietnam was over and he could have left the war zone, he asked for an extension to remain in Vietnam with the Marines. It was during his second tour of duty on September 4, 1967, with the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines that Father Vincent Capodanno made the ultimate sacrifice. After hours of heavy fighting from a North Vietnamese ambush, Fr. Capodanno, himself seriously injured, sighted a wounded Marine pinned down by an enemy machine gunner. He ran to him and administered medical and spiritual attention. The enemy opened fire and Father Capodanno, the victim of twenty-seven bullet wounds, died faithfully performing his final act as a good and faithful servant of God. Thanks to his heroic efforts, the young Marine survived.

In last month's newsletter I reported on the Veterans Day celebration held at the Moberly Correctional Center. We have a member presently incarcerated there and was instrumental in the planning of the ceremoney. I talked with him the other day

and he told me that on Sunday, December 8, the bishop of the Jefferson Diocese visited the prison and celebrated Mass with the inmates. He also told me that he talked with the Bishop, thanking him for visiting, told the bishop about our post and gave the bishop a copy of our last newsletter. Since then, I have written the Bishop McKnight telling him a little more about the post and offered to send him our monthly newsletter if he would like them.

How to contact us

Our snail mail address is:

CWV Post 1974
c/o Our Lady of Mercy Country Home
2115 Maturana Dr.
Liberty, MO 64068

Phone No. (816) 699 8719

If I cannot answer please leave a message with your phone number and I will call back as soon as possible.

Email: Post1974@cwv.org



Just think, at exactly 12:01 on January 1st we will all see 2020, glasses will no be required.

Wishing all of you and your families a very happy New Year and a prosperous, love filled, holy year.
John
