

# Father Vincent R. Capodanno, MM

February 13, 1929 - September 4, 1967

US Navy Chaplain and Vietnam War Hero

Fr. Capodanno, born in Staten Island, was the 10<sup>th</sup> child of Italian immigrants. He was ordained a Maryknoll Missionary in 1958 by Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York. His missionary work brought him to Taiwan and Hong Kong. In 1966 he was commissioned as Lieutenant in the Navy Chaplain Corp of the US Navy and reported to the 7<sup>th</sup> Marines in Vietnam. There he administered to the medical and spiritual needs of the troops. On September 4, 1967, during his second tour in Vietnam, Lt. Capodanno was seriously injured, yet continued to minister to his fellow Marines. Fr. Capodanno, despite 27 bullet wounds, continued performing his final acts of mercy until his death that day.

Lt. Capodanno was awarded the Navy Bronze Star, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Sliver Star and the Purple Heart Medal. In 1969 he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest military honor. He was further honored by our nation in 1973 with the naming of the USS Capodanno, whose motto was "Duty With Honor." The USS Capodanno was the first US Fleet ship to receive a Papal Blessing.

Lt. Capodanno has been recognized throughout the country with many tributes, memorials and scholarships in his name. Many Knights of Columbus Councils have chosen Fr. Capodanno as their patron. In 1973, The Knights of Columbus of Forked River, chartered in 1973, became the Fr. Vincent R. Capodanno Council 6522.

Fr. Capodanno's legacy will be remembered for generations to come.

*THANKS TO ALL WHO DID MILITARY SERVICE.*



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