



# Catholic War Veterans of the USA

## Father Vincent Capodanno Memorial Post

### *To Heal, Serve, Love, Listen*

Thirteenth Edition

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April 2017



**Father Vincent Robert Capodanno, M.M.**

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**MEETING NOTICE**  
**NEXT MEETING IS WEDNESDAY**  
**May 3rd AT 7:00 PM**  
**At Our Lady of Mercy Country**  
**Home**  
**2115 Maturana Dr.**  
**Liberty MO**

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**OUR MOTTO, TO HEAL, SERVE, LOVE, LISTEN**

**TO SERVE:**

The third word “**LOVE**” would appear, at first, to be an easy one adhere to. But, sometimes, not so much. Especially when you come across a grumpy old guy who seems to just be angry at the world. But, if do our best to see our Christ in every person we encounter, it makes it a little easier. So many people are in pain, be it physical,

mental, or emotional, especially our fellow veterans. We have no way of knowing what another is going through in his or her life. All we can do, sometimes if just love them and pray for them, for their pain to go away and for the love of God to fill their hearts.

While we may be a Veterans Service Organization, we are called to love everyone, be they a veteran or not. And love is contagious. It does spread from one person to another.

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#### **Board Meeting**

I spent a year last month, the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, in New York attending the national board meeting. Besides the cost of the hotel being very expensive, at least by Midwestern standards, most everything else went fairly smoothly.

Wednesday evening was to Directors meeting. There was an extensive discussion about the building and what the selling price should be. It seems like the present price is so high that no one is looking at it at all. Eventually

we came to the decision to obtain an appraisal so we would actually know the worth of the building.

As far as the move is concerned, very little was mentioned concerned as to proposals for a new location. The chairman did ask me a few question about the portfolio I had prepared, but that was it. Our proposal was the only one mentioned. The chairman also had prepared a rough draft of a move strategy for moving. One of the problems is that there are quite of few file cabinets at headquarters. There are files dating back probably to the formation of the CWV.

I talked about the need to go through these files and the ones pertaining to our history should be scanned and digitized. The unimportant files should be shredded.

Next I was off to the convention corporation meeting. I had a chance to show them our proposal for the souvenir t-shirts. They wanted golf shirts at a cost under \$25.00. Here are guys that get hotels with a room rate around \$150.00 a night, a banquet cost of over \$70.00. Go figure. I was asked if we could come up with a DJ for music for the banquet.

I did find out that the 2018 convention will be held in Colorado Spring and one of the members was looking into Waterloo, IA for 2019. But, that guy is more interested in having the convention back east. And they wonder why so few members, especially the younger members, do not attend.

The next day we were off to Astoria for the general Board Meeting. We started off with the celebration of the Mass at Immaculate Conception Church which is where Msgr. Higgins was pastor when he formed the CWV. The church was rather beautiful, as was the Mass.

The morning session was mainly just reports from the various dept. commanders and officers. Toward the end of the reports, National Service Officer, Jose Garcia, mentioned that, while all the departments give reports there are no reports from the posts that have no department, even though there were "regions" set up. Since I was the only board member present from a post with no department, I was asked to give a report. I am sorry to say, being unprepared, my report could not do our post the praise that was due it.

Just before the morning session ended, the commander mentioned that the office of VAVS was vacant since the death of the previous officer. She asked if anyone had someone to fill the position until the convention. I sent a text to Ann Roberts asking if she was interested. She was. So I told her to write an email to the commander and CC it to me.

Before we adjourned for lunch, I received the email and showed it to the commander. After lunch the commander mentioned that a member of Post 1974 was interested in the VAVS office and she asked me to talk about her. After I explained how she would be good for the position, the National Service Officer, Jose Garcia, expounded upon what I said. Then the commander took a vote and she was voted it.

Then there was a loooonnnnggg discussion about Karen Stone's pay, whether or not to give her a raise,

bonus, or leave her pay the way it is. It was decided to give her a bonus, since that would be a onetime thing.

That is pretty much what went on during the National Board Meeting. When the National Adjutant published the minutes, I will pass them on to all of you. .

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### Veterans Retreat

Again this year the White House Retreat House just south of St. Louis will be conducting a Veteran Retreat. The retreat will be conducted from June 30 to July 2, 2017.

This retreat is open to men and women of any denomination who have served in the United States Armed Forces. That being stated, share the flyer that is at the end of this newsletter with all the veterans you may know who might be interested in this.

The retreat will help veterans focus on their military experience and how God was with them and continues to be with them. It does require that participants be able to enter into quiet reflection and be able to listen to the experience of others. It digs in to trauma created by PTSD and guilt and shame that can accompany military experience

White House operates on a free-will offering basis asking attendees to simply give wha1 they feel they can at the conclusion of the retreat. The only requirement is a \$50 deposit to register for the retreat.

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**What's Going On**

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, Ann Roberts and I will have an information table set up at a Veteran Fair to be held at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in Liberty MO. If you have never attended one of these fairs, come on by. They are very interesting

On Saturday morning, May 13<sup>th</sup>, our post will be hosting a Blue Star ceremony during which we will be presenting a Blue Star banner to several families. The ceremony will be at Our Lady of Mercy Country Home, Tighe Hall, and begins at 10:30 AM. All are welcome.

On Memorial Day we will be taking our colors to both Catholic Cemeteries in the Kansas City area, Mount Olivette and Resurrection, for the Memorial Day Mass and to lay a wreath at the Veteran Memorial in each cemetery. I will pass along the time and date when we get them. Last year Ann Roberts, Vern Hudspeth showed our colors at the Memorial Mass at Mount Olivette. This was the first time for us. Our Bishop was the celebrant and after the Mass had a lot of very kind words for us. Then we met one of the cemetery officials and suggested that, since there was now a Catholic Veterans organization in the diocese, maybe we could have a wreath laying ceremony

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be a Veteran Stand Down. This year it will be held at St. Michael's Veteran Center. We should have our table there also.

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### Prayer For Our Chaplains

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#### VA Phone Number

VA is introducing 1-844-MyVA311 (1-844-698-2311) as a go-to source for Veterans and their families who don't know what number to call. This new national toll-free number will help eliminate the feeling of frustration and confusion that Veterans and their families have expressed when navigating the 1000-plus phone numbers that currently exist.

Heavenly Father, bless and protect Military Chaplains and fill them with the joy and courage of their vocation as personal ministers of Christ in preaching your word and nourishing us with the Sacraments. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## *For Those Who Served...Let Us Now Serve You*



### Spiritual Retreat for U.S. Veterans

**What:** A series of talks will be presented followed by small group breakout sessions. Attendees will each receive private accommodations and all meals are provided.

**Why:** The retreat will help veterans focus on their military experience and how God was with them and continues to be with them. It does require that participants be able to enter into quiet reflection and be able to listen to the experience of others. It digs in to trauma created by PTSD and guilt and shame that can accompany military experience.

**When:** June 30-July 2, 2017 {Friday-Sunday). Check in is from 5:00 PM to 6:30PM on Friday June 30th and the retreat will conclude at 2:00PM on Sunday July 2nd.

**Where:** **White House Jesuit Retreat-** 7400 Christopher Drive, St. Louis, MO 63129.

**Who:** This retreat is open to men and women of any denomination who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

**Cost:** White House operates on a free-will offering basis asking attendees to simply give what they feel they can at the conclusion of the retreat. The only requirement is a \$50 deposit to register for the retreat.

**Space is limited! Call 314-416-6400 or visit us online at [www.whretreat.org](http://www.whretreat.org) to reserve your space.**

***This type of “retreat” is a good thing!***

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#### **Military Family Support-Military Outreach AT THE PARISH LEVEL and beyond**

Soon, Catholic veterans and parishioners from St. James Parish, Liberty, Missouri will launch a new ministry with God's blessing-Military Outreach Ministry-(MOM), or a mission name that is similar to MOM. Its pastoral mission will be to support our active duty military and their families at the parish level and provide recognition and thankfulness for our veterans in the parish and out in the community. As in other parishes and dioceses all across the United States this new 'military family support' for active duty military personnel, Guard men and women, and veterans of previous wars and conflicts protect our freedom and American way of life with the spirit and grace from God. Some projects/ ministry that will be introduced in the formative gathering of interested persons will be to provide: care packages and cards to those currently deployed on overseas assignments, Masses of Remembrance for Veterans and Deceased veterans, Blue Star Ceremony, and information and education workshops for active military, families and veterans. We hold these veterans in the palms of our Lord's hands.

If you decide to do the same in your parish, please let our post know so that we can assist you in your parish ministry to veterans and active duty military personnel.

“May the LORD give might to his people; may the LORD bless his people with peace.” (Psalm29:11).

#### **Convention News**

By now all of you should have received the National Newsletter which has the convention information. There are several hotels close to where the convention is to be held and their room rates are much less than the Hilton. You can save a lot of money by staying at one of these. I will try to compile a list of these hotels in plenty of time for you to make reservations if you so desire to attend the convention and not stay at the Hilton. One other thing concerning the convention. There should have been a form in the newsletter (national newsletter) for placing an ad in the convention program. If you know of any business, organization, veteran group, or person who would like to place an add, wish the convention good luck, or just their name, hand them a copy. If you don't have a form, let me know and I will get it to you ASAP

#### **New from the Archdiocese for Military Services**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS), launched a new podcast called Catholic Military Life. The podcast, featuring recorded audio conversations with chaplains and others involved with pastoral care to those who serve, will appear in regular episodes on the AMS website, its Facebook page, and external sites such as SoundCloud and PodOmatic.**

**Two auxiliary bishops talk about their very different experiences jumping out of airplanes with fellow**

paratroopers. A retired Air Force chaplain shares how he negotiated with fellow officers to address secular influences threatening the free exercise of faith at the Air Force Academy. An Army National Guard chaplain spellbinds the listener with his account of bringing the sacraments to wounded G.I.'s getting medical treatment at a field hospital in Iraq. A religious writer spins yarns from his book on a Catholic Civil War chaplain who served the Confederates. All are subjects of early editions, each exploring a different perspective on Catholic Military Life.

In the first edition, now posted, Archbishop Timothy Broglio reflects on his first nine years at the helm of the global archdiocese that is the AMS. "It's been a good run, thus far," says Archbishop Broglio. "Certainly, the high points consist in ministering to the fine men and women and their families. That's really a privilege. I think ordained ministry gives us the opportunity to reach out to people in moments that are particularly important to them, and so the opportunity to celebrate the sacraments with so many of our men and women in uniform, our cadets and midshipmen at the academies, and certainly, in 2009, spending Holy Week in Iraq, and in 2014, spending Holy Week in Afghanistan. Those were singular moments, privileged encounters between a shepherd and his flock..."

Catholic Military Life is just another way the AMS is building channels of communication with its worldwide population of 1.8 million in the U.S. Military, VA hospitals, and civilian service to the federal government beyond American borders. The new podcast joins other, ongoing forms of outreach including [www.milarch.com](http://www.milarch.com), the e-ATTENTION monthly newsletter, and the quarterly hard-copy magazine, SALUTE.

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