



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

Ninth Edition

est. 11/24/2015

November 2016



Father Vincent Robert Capodanno, M.M.

**MEETING NOTICE**  
**NEXT MEETING IS**  
**WEDNESDAY December 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**AT 7:00 PM**  
**At Our Lady of Mercy Country**  
**Home**  
**2115 Maturana Dr.**  
**Liberty MO**

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**New National Officer**

If any of you read The Catholic Key on the weekend of November 4<sup>th</sup>, you may have noticed an article in there about the Memorial Mass and my installation. Just in case you have not had the chance, here it is, minus the picture, which was in last month's newsletter:

LIBERTY — Friends and veterans joined members of the Father Vincent R. Capodanno MM Memorial Post 1974 of

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the Catholic War Veterans of the United States for an Oct. 15 Memorial Mass honoring Father Capodanno at Our Lady of Mercy Country Home, the Post's home.

The principal celebrant was Father Charles Rowe, Vicar General for the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, with Msgr. Ralph Kaiser, former Navy Chaplain, Father Kenneth Criqui, former Air Force Chaplain, and Precious Blood Father Richard Colbert, Chaplain of Post 1974, concelebrating. Catholic War Veterans National Commander, Arminda Crawford, her husband George and Marine Corps veteran Frederick Tancke also attended.

Sept. 4, 1967— on a small, bloody rise there was a fierce battle with the 5th Marine Regiment outnumbered 5 – 1 by the North Vietnamese. Navy/Marine chaplain Maryknoll Father Vincent R. Capodanno, affectionately known as the "Grunt Padre," moved about the battlefield comforting and ministering to the wounded and dying.

Fred Tancke was a Marine assigned to take out a machine gunner and was in a hole when his rifle jammed. Father Capodanno jumped into the hole with him, then noticed that several Marines were down with a corpsman trying to work on one of them. Father Capodanno ran to the fallen marines and began anointing the dead and consoling the wounded. When he moved to shield the corpsman, a barrage of more than 27 bullets killed him.

Tancke is the last living man to see Father Capodanno alive.

He was the first to recommend Father Capodanno for the Congressional Medal of Honor for his selfless sacrifice, which was awarded posthumously in January, 1969.

Father Capodanno was recognized as a Servant of God in 2006 by the Archdiocese for Military Service, the initial step on the road to sainthood.

In his homily, Father Rowe pointed out that “the service of the Catholic War Veterans is enriched by partaking in this most holy Eucharist.”

He continued, “Organizations for veterans are based on grateful recollection and mutual support. Veterans ... have defended their nation ...bonded together by a common history of having risked life and limb to protect our beloved homeland. Veterans come together both to remember comrades who have passed on, especially those who died on the field of battle, and ... to assist those who remain. Special solicitude is shown to those who still bear the scars of combat in mind and body.

“The holy Eucharist is also about grateful recollection and mutual support. At Mass, we gratefully remember our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He paid the ultimate price, sacrificing his life on the altar of the cross, in the battle for our salvation. At Mass, the power of Christ’s paschal victory is conveyed to us in Holy Communion. Christ’s example enlightens us; his grace strengthens us to love one another as he has loved us. And we give proof of this love by the service we offer to one another.

“The Catholic War Veterans of the United States ... bring to the noble duty of commemorating and helping veterans the unique graces that the Gospel offers. To those who have fallen, our faith offers hope of resurrection. To those ... traumatized by spiritual wounds that no human physician can treat, we bring the healing balm of the Holy Spirit which cures every ill. To one another, we offer the precious charity of Jesus Christ that inspires us to love without counting the cost, trusting that his love makes it all worthwhile.”

Following the Mass, Commander Crawford, assisted by Father Rowe, installed post commander John F. Kopp into the office of National Director for a 3-year term and member of the National Board of Directors. He is the only national office holder in the organization whose state does not have a department (state-wide head office) and only the one post.

Commander Kopp said that Post 1974’s chaplain, Father Colbert, is a resident at Our Lady of Mercy Country Home and ministers to and celebrates Mass for the residents. He is not a veteran, but is a post member. Priests,

whether veterans or not, are welcomed as members, adding that Bishop Johnston has been a member since 2015.

The Father Vincent R. Capodanno Memorial Post was authorized Nov. 24, 2015 by Commander Crawford. The post now has about 30 members, from Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Alabama. It is the only CWV post in those four states.

The memorial service began with Commander Kopp’s explanation of the events involved in the post choosing the name, “Father Vincent Capodanno, MM Memorial Post,” commenting that “he, and many other post members, truly believe that the Holy Spirit was very instrumental in the selection.” Commander Kopp then introduced Tancke who “presented a very moving and emotional discussion” on the priest’s final hours.

The ceremony concluded with the reading the names of all the Catholic Chaplains who died while on active duty during wartime, concluding with the poem “Our Dead” and Taps, played by American Legion Post 95-member Gene Welch.

Father Rowe later told The Key, “I would also congratulate Commander Kopp on his appointment. It is quite an honor and a great service to our Catholic vets!”

To learn more about Post 1974 of the Catholic War Veterans, visit [www.cwv.org](http://www.cwv.org) or email [Post1974@cwv.org](mailto:Post1974@cwv.org).

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**VETERAN STAND DOWN**

On the morning of November 4<sup>th</sup>, Ann Roberts, Vernon Hudspeth, and I attended the annual Veteran Stand Down in Kansas City Kansas. We talked with several veterans and assisted in helping them find the services they needed. This was the third stand down we have attended and will be attending the one in the spring in Kansas City Missouri.

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**“Keep Christ in Christmas” Poster Contest**

**We have prepared all the mailings for this year’s Christmas Poster contest. If you remember, last year a second grader from St. Elizabeth School won second place, nationally.**

**We are sending the information to over sixty parishes in our diocese. That is a lot of kids, and if only half respond we will really have a lot of poster to judge.**

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**Help Needed**

On December 5<sup>th</sup> we will be assisting our brothers in The Jewish War Veterans of the USA with their planning of their Christmas service to veterans. What they do is distribute packages to hundreds of veterans in the hospital and veterans homes. They need people to fill the gift bags. If you are interested in helping, please let me know as soon as possible.

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**Website**

If you have tried to get on our website recently you may have noticed it asks you to log in, which you are unable to do. What happened was, some posts were using their website to store pictures talking up gobs of disk space. So national was forced to take down all of the websites and now they can be used only for administration purposes. But, never fear, we now have our own website, thanks to our adjutant Robert Emery. So, if you are looking for information about our post, are anything else, take a look at it. [www.cwvpost1974.com](http://www.cwvpost1974.com)

I still have some calendars left. They cost \$25.00 each and you have a chance to win a cash prize every day of the year, ranging from \$25.00 to over a thousand.

**Membership**

There are still eight members who have not renewed their membership. If you are one of those, please send in your membership as soon as possible.

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**On behalf of all of the officers of Post 1974, I wish all of you a very wonderful and happy Thanksgiving Day. We all have so much to be thankful for to God. Remember to thank Him.**

**Remember one thing: Keep the love of God in your heart and a big smile on your face.**

**Post Officers**

**Chaplain**

Fr. Richard Colbert, C.P.P.S.  
2115 Maturana Dr.  
Liberty MO 64068

**Commander**

John F. Kopp  
2400 NE 59<sup>th</sup> St.  
Gladstone MO 64118  
816-699-8719  
jfkopp@att.net

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander**

Tammy Scott  
703 W. Jenkins  
Maryville MO 64468

[scottmyt@netscape.net](mailto:scottmyt@netscape.net)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander**

Vernon Hudspeth  
P.O. Box 7343  
Kansas City MO 64116

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander**

**Ann Roberts**

1104 Pier St

Liberty MO 64068

660-744-3625

[annroberts977@gmail.com](mailto:annroberts977@gmail.com)

**Adjutant**

Robert Emery  
2115 Maturana Drive  
Liberty MO 64068  
[remery18@comcast.net](mailto:remery18@comcast.net)

**Treasurer**

Dirk Stapleton  
603 NE 97th Terr.  
Kansas City MO 64155

[dirkastapleton@msn.com](mailto:dirkastapleton@msn.com)

**Historian**

Tammy Scott  
703 W. Jenkins  
Maryville MO 64468

[scottmyt@netscape.net](mailto:scottmyt@netscape.net)

**Officer of the Day**

Thomas F. Maschler, Jr  
2115 Maturana Dr Apt 206A  
Liberty MO 64068

[rmaschler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rmaschler@sbcglobal.net)

**Welfare/Service Officer**

Patrick J Weitekamp  
. 5125 N. Lawn  
Kansas City MO 64119