



# FATHER KAPAUN

April 20, 1916 – May 23, 1951

Priest, soldier and friend – pray for us.

SPRING 2008

*“Temptations come in many different ways... ..Instead of satisfying ourselves in anger we must try to be patient and kind. Instead of satisfying ourselves with impure thoughts, desires, words and actions, we must always be clean and pure. Instead of satisfying ourselves with lying and cheating, we must tell the truth and be honest. Yes, there are many things we must leave on this world. Our Saviour assures us: ‘If you will have life, keep the commandments.’”*

- Father Emil Kapaun

## Father Kapaun’s Cause Continues to Advance

Father Kapaun’s cause for canonization took another step forward. On February 1, 2008, Bishop Michael Jackels and Father John Hotze met with Dr. Andrea Ambrosi, a postulator from Rome. The canonization process requires that all causes hire a postulator to help guide the cause through the necessary Congregations of the Roman Curia. Dr. Ambrosi was recommended to the Diocese by the Congregation for Saints. He will help guide the process while it is in the diocesan phase of the investigation. In this diocesan phase, all information on the life of Servant of God Father Emil Kapaun is collected and organized. During the diocesan phase a theological commission and a historical commission will be formed. The theological commission will study and review all writings of Father Kapaun to ensure that they are doctrinally sound. The historical commission will gather and review the historical facts and data of Father Kapaun’s life. This will be done through research of historical documents and interviews. Once these commissions have fulfilled their duties, the information will be compiled and organized so that the information can move to the Roman phase of the process. In the Roman phase, still guided by the postulator, the documents are once again reviewed and scrutinized. They are readied for presentation to the Congregation of Saints.

While this process is taking place, any alleged miracles are also investigated. A miracle of healing requires first that the doctor handling the case state that there was no medical or scientific reason for the cure to have come about. Once he makes this statement, all medical records concerning the case, i.e., doctor reports, x-rays, treatments, etc., are collected. This information goes to a panel of three doctors who are completely removed from the case. They too are asked to determine if there are any medical or scientific reasons for the healing to have occurred. If this panel of doctors can state that they see no medical or scientific cause for the healing, the information is sealed and sent to the Congregation for Saints. The case will undergo similar scrutiny once in Rome. It will also be established that the (continued on next page)

## Cause Continues to Advance (cont.)

healing was sought through the intercession of the Servant of God. Only after the case has passed all of these stages will the alleged miracle be accepted as a miracle to promote the cause for sainthood.

Some significant steps have already been made in this the process. The Diocese of Wichita has been granted consent from the Diocese of Pyongyang in North Korea to promote the cause for Father Kapaun's sainthood.

The Diocese of Pyongyang would have the first opportunity to promote the cause since Father Kapaun died in that diocese. The bishops of the Kansas Conference of Catholic Bishops have given their support for the Diocese to further promote the cause. The Congregation of Saints has issued their Nihil obstat (a statement that there is no obstacle to the furthering of the cause.) In the weeks and months to come, the theological and historical commissions will be opened. There will be an official opening of Father Kapaun's Cause for Sainthood and all are welcome to attend. The location and date of the opening of the cause have not yet been determined and will be announced when known.

Please keep the cause for Father Kapaun's sainthood in your prayers. Continue to ask for his intercession. Favors are being granted. Your support, both spiritual and financial, is greatly appreciated.

### NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

## A Postulator?

There are several terms that are commonly used in the course of a petition for canonization that are not familiar. One such term would be the postulator. There are actually two postulators in the process of canonization. The Diocesan Postulator and the Roman Postulator. The postulator is one who is appointed by the petitioner for the cause for canonization. In our case, Bishop Jackels has petitioned the Congregation for Saints in the cause for Father Kapaun. The petitioner is also known as the Actor. Bishop Jackels as the petitioner, or the actor, has appointed Dr. Andrea Ambrosi as our Roman Postulator. The postulator will care for all legal, procedural and monetary matters in regard to the cause. The postulator is to have the requisite theological, canonical and historical preparation and should be versed in the procedures of the Congregation for Saints. They are also to work with local groups to help promote devotion to those persons whose cause they are helping with. Dr. Ambrosi is acting as the Roman Postulator for several causes that are currently underway. If you would like to learn more about his work please visit [www.beatificationprocess.com](http://www.beatificationprocess.com).

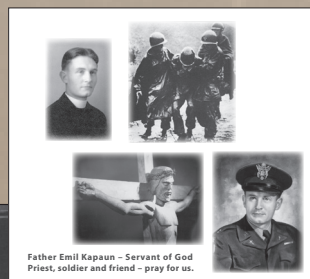
## FR. KAPAUN ITEMS

*Proceeds to benefit the canonization efforts of Chaplain Kapaun*

I would like to place an order for the following items:

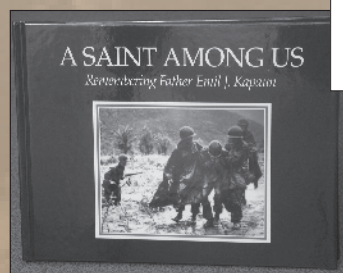
- \_\_\_\_\_ copies of "A Saint Among Us: Remembering Father Emil Kapaun." (suggested donation \$25)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ copies of "A Shepherd in Combat Boots" by William Maher. (suggested donation \$17)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ gold-plated Chaplain Kapaun medals. (suggested donation \$10)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Fr. Kapaun dog tags. A reminder to pray. (suggested donation \$10)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Fr. Kapaun greeting cards. Two each of five designs in each set of cards. Blank inside. (suggested donation \$7 per set)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed. **Please include your name, address and phone number with your order.**

Please allow two weeks for delivery. If you have questions about these items or need additional clarification, please call Ann Maley at 316-269-3917. Return order form to: Father Kapaun Guild, 424 N. Broadway, Wichita, KS 67202.



Father Emil Kapaun - Servant of God  
Priest, soldier and friend - pray for us.

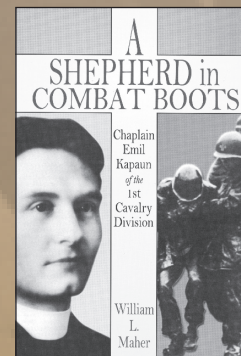
Greeting Cards  
(one of five designs)  
Suggested donation - \$7



Suggested donation - \$25



Dog Tags and Medal  
Suggested donation - \$10 each



Suggested donation - \$17

# *Fifth Annual* **Archdiocese of the Military Services Pilgrimage** *to Pilsen*

This past November 11, the faithful filled St. John Nepomucene Church in Pilsen, Kansas. They gathered to join the Archdiocese of the Military Services (AMS) as they honored Chaplain Kapaun. Bishop William Higgins of the AMS traveled from Washington, D.C. to be the principal celebrant at the Mass. Bishop Jackels of Wichita also concelebrated the Mass. A wreath laying ceremony followed the Eucharistic Celebration. The Derby, Kansas Junior ROTC provided the color guard for the ceremony. The choir from St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Community sang at both the Mass and the wreath laying ceremony. Fort Riley, Fort Leavenworth and McConnell Air Force Base were all represented at this year's pilgrimage.

Some interesting facts about North Korea were discovered during research for Father Kapaun's cause. There are no resident Catholic priests in North Korea. The Archbishop of Seoul, Cardinal Nicholas Cheong Jin-suk, acts as Administrator for all of the diocese of North Korea. There is one Catholic Church in North Korea and it just happens to be in the Diocese of Pyongyang. It was built by the government in 1988. While organized religions are not allowed in North Korea, there is a Catholic presence. Catholic communities gather on Sunday to pray. At times, they are able to get a priest to visit to celebrate the Eucharist. The priest is usually a missionary priest that is serving in China. The priest or any foreign visitor is never allowed to be alone with a North Korean national. Thus, they are never able to partake of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



*Bishop Higgins and Bishop Jackels celebrate Mass.*

Bishop Jackels announced that he had received word from the Congregation for Saints. The Congregation requested that Bishop Jackels see to a few matters prior to the opening of the cause for sainthood of Father Emil Kapaun. The Congregation recommended that the Diocese should enlist the aid of Dr. Andrea Ambrosi as our Roman Postulator. They also asked that consent be requested from the Diocese of Pyongyang so that the Diocese of Wichita would have jurisdiction to present the case. The Diocese of Pyongyang is the diocese in which Father Kapaun died.

*Plan on joining us next year on Veterans Day, November 11, for the next Pilgrimage to Pilsen!*



*Bishop William Higgins stands in front of the Father Kapaun Statue.*

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Wichita, Kansas 67202

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*Mark your  
calendars:*

**Sixth Annual  
Fr. Kapaun Day**

**June 29, 2008!**

*Details coming soon.*

## A Legacy Gift in Remembrance of Fr. Kapaun

Bequests and memorial gifts are one way to remember a loved one and make a real difference in the journey towards canonization of Father Kapaun!

We have some very exciting news to share with you. Several weeks ago, Father Hotze was informed of, from the best of our collective memories, the very first bequest to the Father Kapaun Guild!

Gasberdena Hein, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Wichita at the time of her death, created within her personal will a bequest for the Father Kapaun Guild. It reads as follows: "I give, devise and bequeath... .. to the Catholic Diocese of Wichita for the benefit of the Father Kapaun Guild to further the Church's efforts in canonization of Father Kapaun as a Saint of the Catholic Church."

This bequest couldn't have come at a better time, given the recent announcement of the appointment of a Roman Postulator to the case. As you might imagine, there is a cost involved with this appointment and so in a very direct way, this bequest will go to help pay these expenses.

To anyone out there who in any way helped to inspire Gasberdena to make this legacy gift for the benefit of our own Father Kapaun's cause, thank you.

If you would like to learn more about how to make a similar intention in your will or estate plan, please let us know. You can contact **Mike Wescott**, Director of Development and Planned Giving for the Catholic Diocese at **316-269-3915** or reach him at **wescottm@cdowk.org** anytime.

*Father Kapaun, pray for us.*

Want to learn more about Father Kapaun, his life and his contributions? Check it out at

[www.frkapaun.org](http://www.frkapaun.org)