

Kapaun Memorial Fund Update – August 2025

Over the last few weeks, I've read two books that told in detail the story of Father Emil Kapaun, Catholic priest and decorated Army Chaplain from Pilson Kansas. The first one is called "The Story of Chaplain Kapaun" by Father Arthur Tonne and the second called "No Bullet Has Found Me Yet" by John Stansifer. They both relay the remarkable life this holy man of God lived. What a wonderful example he set for those he interacted with and an example that is still relevant for us today. From his early life in Pilson, his time in priestly formation, his time as a parish priest and especially the time he served as an army chaplain, he set an example of love for those he served. He served those under his care, often without a thought for his own health or welfare. Those Father encountered had nothing but praise for him. In fact, he was universally loved.

As you and your council considers a donation to help place a memorial to Father Kapaun in the capitol in Topeka, I encourage you to educate yourself on the life of this remarkable Catholic priest and decorated war hero.

Since we launched this fundraising campaign in May at our State Convention, we have raised nearly \$80,000 towards our goal of \$250,000. Donations are made through the Diocese of Wichita and earmarked for the Kapaun Memorial. Contributions can be made through Kapaun Memorial Fund website at <https://www.kapaunmemorial.com>. The Knights of Columbus have been generous with nearly 30 councils contributing over \$50,000 of the nearly \$80,000 raised to date. That total doesn't count donations by individual Knights of Columbus members. For more information about how you can help contact Michael Grothoff at mgrothoff2@gmail.com or 913-481-5973.

The Kapaun Memorial Committee is grateful for the support the Knights of Columbus and her members have provided. But we are still only one third of the way to our goal. Please consider contributing to help raise awareness of this remarkable Kansan and to help advance his cause for sainthood.