

Father Kapaun - A Holy Patriot

September 2025

Father Kapaun, even as a boy growing up in Pilsen, Kansas showed himself to be holy. From an early age he was determined to become a priest and early in his priestly formation and ministry had a strong desire to serve God as a missionary.

Throughout his short yet extraordinary life he exuded holiness and yet he was even more than that. In addition to his love of God and desire to serve Him, Father Kapaun was a true American patriot. He volunteered to serve as an army chaplain and served in both World War II and Korea. His letters home from his time in the theaters of war he served conveyed how proud he was of his service to our country and the work he was doing for the soldiers he served.

His holiness and patriotism were confirmed by those he served with in the military. He insisted on offering holy mass for them even under the most dangerous of conditions. He was with them in the foxholes and always volunteering to serving where the fighting was the most intense. His only thought during these encounters with the enemy was the spiritual and physical welfare of his men. As an example, on the day of his capture, while he could have been evacuated

safely, he insisted on staying with wounded soldiers despite knowing that his capture was certain.

It was while a prisoner of war that his true character was revealed. Those in the prisoner of war camp with him spoke of how tirelessly he worked for them, providing extra food and keeping up their spirits. The bravery he displayed fulfilling those duties was inspirational. In my next article for the Kapaun Memorial Fund I will focus on his service as a prisoner of war.

This is the man we are honoring with our memorial to Chaplain Kapaun at the State Capitol. Donations to the fund are steadily coming in as we approach the \$90,000 mark, but we still have a way to go. I encourage every Knight in the state of Kansas to stand with Father Kapaun. Please, consider contributing generously to the Father Kapaun Memorial Fund and to spread the word about this remarkable man and priest.

Remember if you wish to host a fundraising event for the Father Kapaun memorial or to help raise awareness of his

cause for sainthood contact Michael J. Grothoff at
mgrothoff2@gmail.com or 913-481-5973.

Contribute today at:

2025 Chaplain Kapaun Memorial Committee
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