

# DIOCESE OF LIMERICK

# VOCATIONS

APRIL 2020



"There is no place for selfishness,  
and no place for fear!  
Do not be afraid, then,  
when love makes demands.  
Do not be afraid when love requires  
sacrifice."

-Pope St. John Paul II

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# SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

At Pope Francis's weekly Angelus Address on March 15, he noted that when "We find ourselves living more or less isolated, we are invited to rediscover and reflect further on the value of communion, which unites all the members of the Church." He went on to describe how this union is "nourished in prayer, and also in spiritual communion with the Eucharist, a greatly recommended practice when it's not possible to receive the Sacrament."

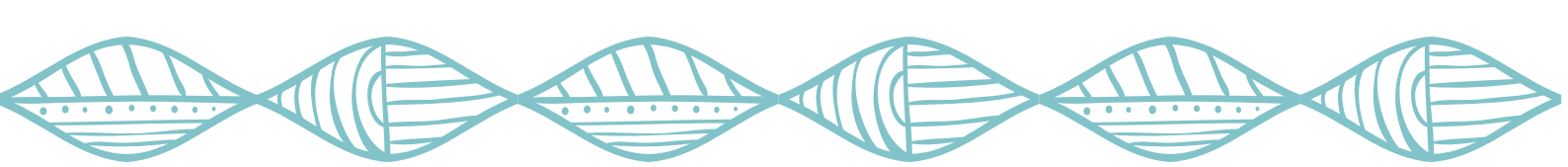
Spiritual communion has been a long-standing practice in the Church, but is sometimes today forgotten about. Saint Thomas Aquinas, in his *Summa Theologiae*, explained that there are two ways of receiving the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist "namely, spiritually and sacramentally." He then defined spiritual communion as that which "comprises the desire or yearning for receiving this sacrament" (III, Q. 80, Art. 11, co.). Thus, when we are not able to receive the sacraments, we should still strive to set time apart in our day to pray, read the Scriptures, and make spiritual communions, which we can do as often as we like.

## *Prayer of Spiritual Communion*

*My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

*~ St. Alphonsus Liguori*





# SOLDIER FOR CHRIST

## FATHER EMIL KAPAUN



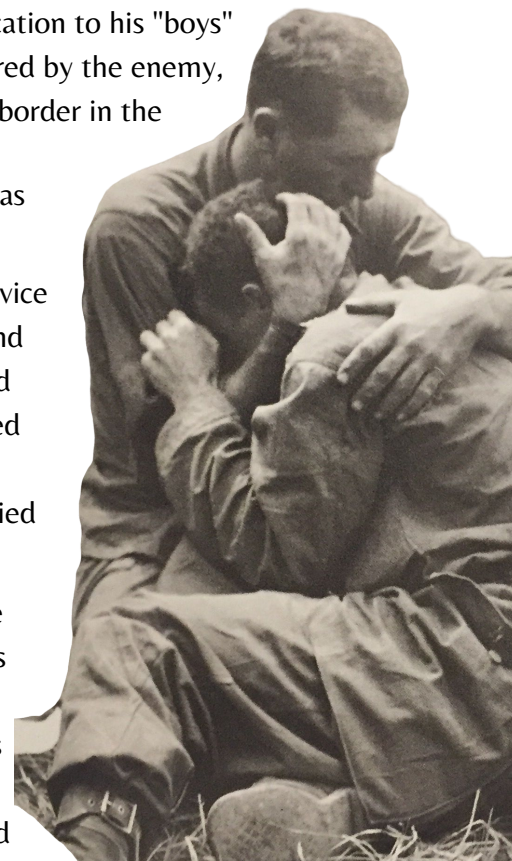
Emil Kapaun was a Catholic priest and U.S. Army Chaplain born in the small Czech farming community of Pilsen, Kansas on April 20, 1916. Growing up he was much like any other hardworking farm boy, but was especially mindful of God and others. Four years after his ordination as a priest of the Diocese of Wichita, he entered the Chaplain Corps to serve the troops in World War II and was sent to the Burma-India theater. After the war he went back to parish life, but re-entered the Chaplain Corps in 1948, serving first at Ft. Bliss, Texas. At the beginning of 1950 he was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division in Japan.

In July of 1950 Chaplain Kapaun and the 8th Cavalry Regiment of the Army's 1st Cavalry Division were among the first troops sent to help defend nearby South Korea after its invasion by the North. Chaplain Kapaun quickly gained a reputation for bravery by ministering to soldiers in the thick of battle, often having to be reminded to keep his head down from oncoming bullets.

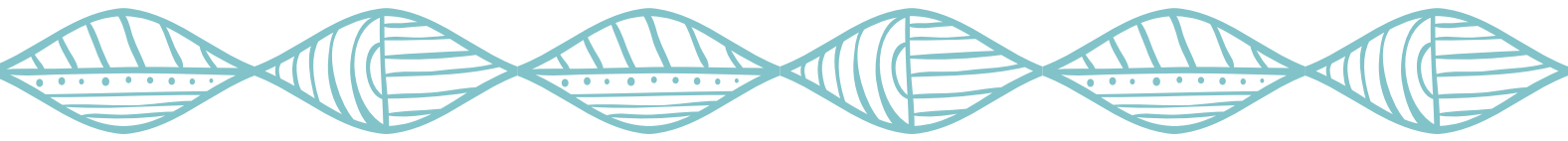
Eventually pushing its way into North Korea, the 8th Cav was ambushed by a large Chinese Army that had secretly entered the war. Here, at the Battle of Unsan on November 2, Kapaun once again braved the battlefield to rescue men or give them Last Rites. He showed his dedication to his "boys" by choosing to remain with a number of wounded men rather than escape. Captured by the enemy, this group was forced to march over 60 miles to a prison camp along the Chinese border in the bitter cold. Along the way, Father Kapaun carried his wounded comrades and encouraged them to do likewise. For his actions at the Battle of Unsan, Kapaun was awarded the military's highest award, the Medal of Honor, in 2013.

In his seven months in the prison camp, Father Kapaun spent himself in heroic service to his fellow prisoners without regard for race, color, or creed, giving them help and hope when they needed it most. Ignoring his own ill health, he nursed the sick and wounded, stole food for the hungry, picked lice off of men, washed dirty and soiled clothing, and encouraged men through prayer and humor to keep fighting for life. Falling sick, the Chinese moved Father Kapaun to a so-called hospital, where, denied medical assistance, his death soon followed on May 23, 1951.

Two years later the surviving Prisoners of War were released, and with them came a beautiful crucifix carved in the camp by a Jewish POW who was inspired by tales of Father Kapaun's deeds. The Prisoners testified to Father Kapaun's role in their survival and began to tell the world about their heroic and saintly chaplain. This is a role that the Father Kapaun Guild seeks to carry on as we pray and work for his Canonization as a saint in the Catholic Church. We ask you to join us in prayer and in sharing Father Kapaun's story with the rest of the world.





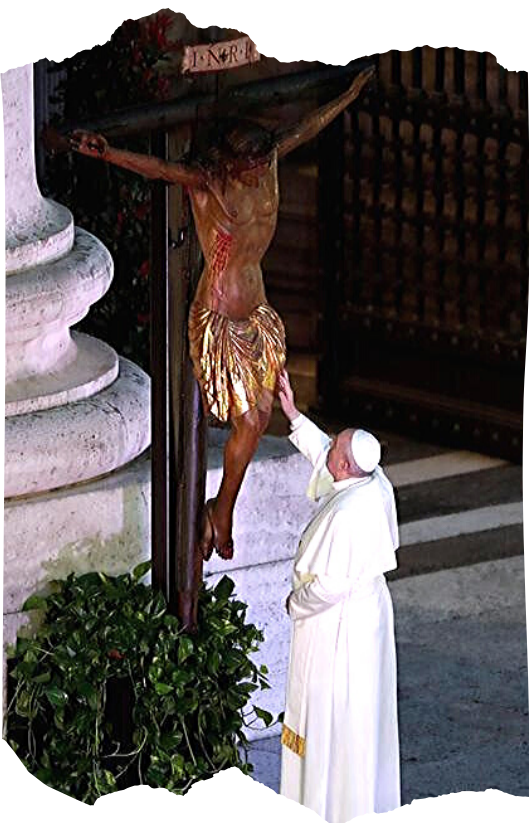


# PLENARY INDULGENCES

## WHAT POPE FRANCIS OFFERED TO THE WORLD

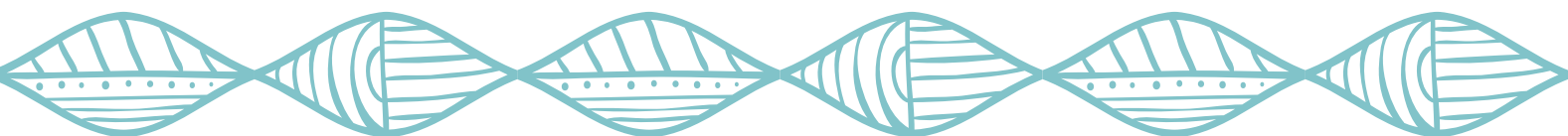
On March 27th, Pope Francis delivered an address and apostolic blessing to "the city (Rome) and to the world" (Urbi et Orbi), which is traditionally given on solemn occasions. Attached to this particular blessing is a plenary indulgence.

The Plenary Indulgence is granted to the faithful suffering from Coronavirus, who are subject to quarantine by order of the health authority in hospitals or in their own homes if, with a spirit detached from any sin, they unite spiritually through the media to the celebration of Holy Mass, the recitation of the Holy Rosary, to the pious practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion, or if at least they will recite the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and a pious invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, offering this trial in a spirit of faith in God and charity towards their brothers and sisters, with the will to fulfill the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the Holy Father's intentions), as soon as possible.



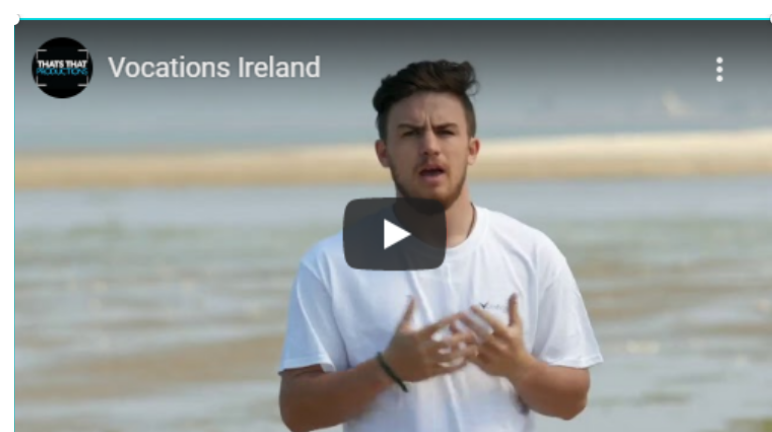
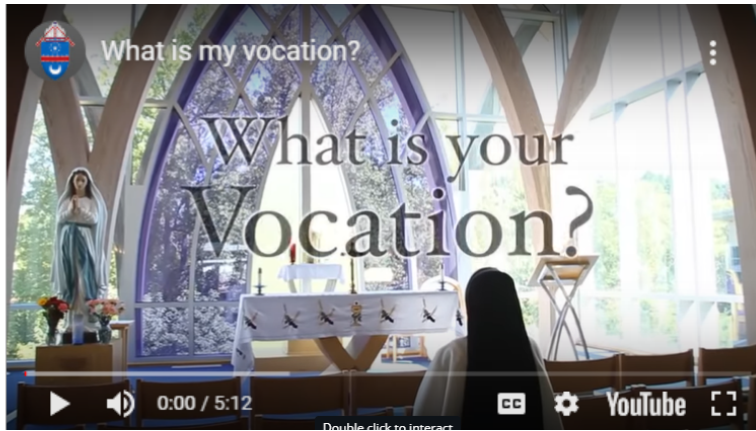
Health care workers, family members and all those who, following the example of the Good Samaritan, exposing themselves to the risk of contagion, care for the sick of Coronavirus according to the words of the divine Redeemer: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn 15: 13), will obtain the same gift of the Plenary Indulgence under the same conditions.

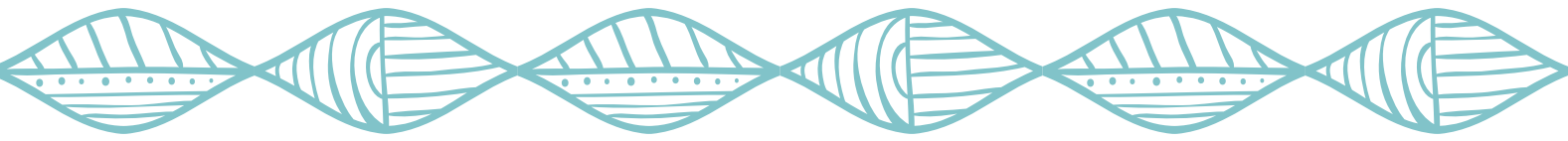
This Apostolic Penitentiary also willingly grants a Plenary Indulgence under the same conditions on the occasion of the current world epidemic, also to those faithful who offer a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, or Eucharistic adoration, or reading the Holy Scriptures for at least half an hour, or the recitation of the Holy Rosary, or the pious exercise of the Way of the Cross, or the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, to implore from Almighty God the end of the epidemic, relief for those who are afflicted and eternal salvation for those whom the Lord has called to Himself.





# FILMS ON DISCERNMENT AND VOCATIONS

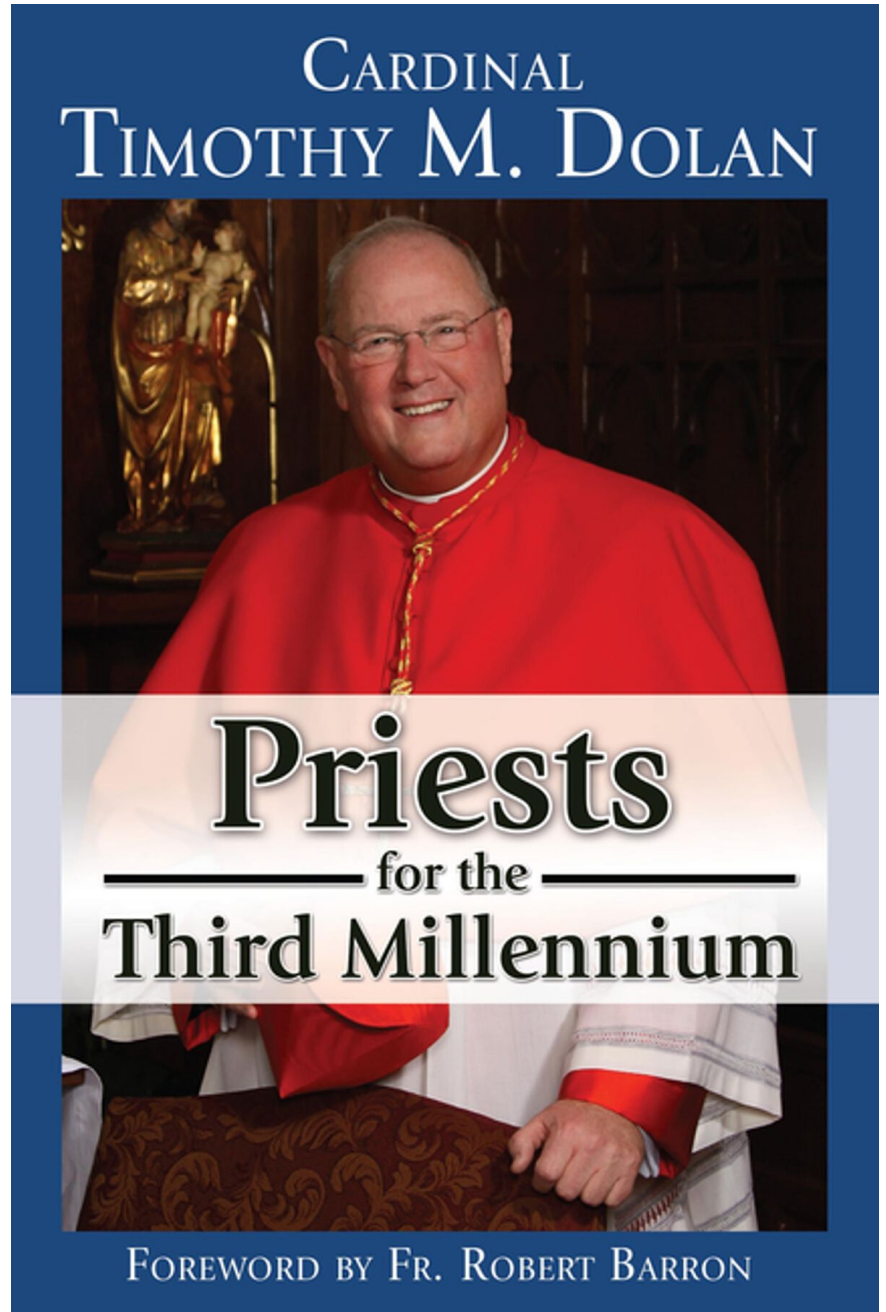




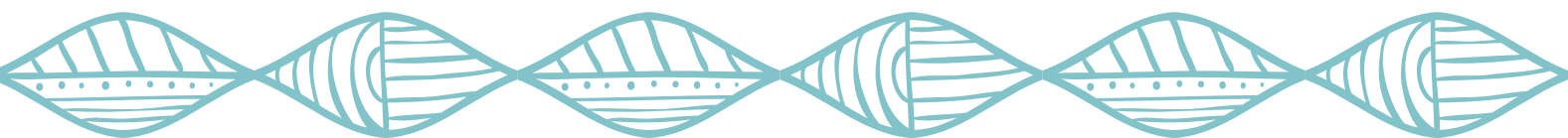
# RECOMMENDED READING

From his opening treatment on faith, as it is expressed in the Apostles' Creed, to his concluding chapter on devotion to Mary, Cardinal Dolan faithfully teaches Catholic doctrine with enthusiasm and simplicity. But more than that, he clearly sets forth what it takes to be a Catholic priest in the third millennium. Whether he is stressing the necessity of regular Confession and the need to celebrate daily Mass, say the Liturgy of the Hours, or discussing priestly celibacy in frank, realistic terms, the author emphasizes true priest identity by presenting a life worth living, a life worth sharing, a life worth offering up to the Father through Christ and in the Holy Spirit.

Pastoral, practical, and thoroughly Catholic, *Priests for the Third Millennium* will renew the joy of being Catholic in the hearts of seminarians, priests, and the people they serve.



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**VOCATION OFFICE**

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