



CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, INC.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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2023 – 2024 1st Vice Commander Americanism & Catholic Action Programs

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Date: September 2023
From: Michael S. Ranno, National 1st Vice Commander
To: Commanders and 1st Vice Commanders; ALL ECHELONS
Subject: 2023-2024 NATIONAL FIRST VICE COMMANDER'S PROGRAM

All First Vice Commanders are responsible to organize, conduct and coordinate Americanism and Catholic Action programs in their respective echelons. Due to the many things that can be associated with Americanism and Catholic Action,

I suggest that you consider appointing committees to help you in your duties.

I also suggest that you seek the guidance of your Chaplain with help and suggestions regarding Catholic Action.

CATHOLIC ACTION

We are unique as a Veterans' organization because of our relationship with the Catholic Church. We are the only Catholic organization to be granted a federal Congressional Charter and one of just a few Veterans' groups to enjoy that recognition.

1. **SUPPORT OF RELIGIOUS AND MILITARY VOCATIONS**

We are in desperate need of more priests as chaplains to administer to members of the Armed Forces. Our Bishop Protector needs the support of the Catholic War Veterans. We can assist both monetarily and with continued prayers. Why not consider a fund raiser in your unit and send proceeds to the Archdiocese of the Military?

2. **SPIRITUAL BOUQUET**

The 2023-2024 annual CWV Spiritual Bouquet campaign begins July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. This is one of the most important activities of the Catholic War Veterans as we pay homage to the Vicar of Christ on Earth, our Spiritual Father, Pope Francis. It should include Masses, Holy Communion, Rosaries, Stations of the Cross, Acts of Charities, Eucharistic Visits and Adoration, Fasts, Mortifications, Aspirations, and recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

The Spiritual Bouquet Form for an individual can be found in the Member Resources Form Section on the website.

3. **CANONIZATION OF FATHER EMIL KAPAUN NAMED A SERVANT OF GOD IN 1993.**

Father Kapaun was an Army Chaplain during both World War II and the Korean War. Because of the exceptional life he led and the outstanding service he gave not only to our men in the field but to his fellow POWs in Korea, he is being considered for canonization. Make every attempt to promote this movement in your post and among your fellow parishioners. If you do not possess a copy of the Father Kapaun prayer, there is one available on the internet (www.frkapaun.org). This prayer should be recited at every post meeting.

4. **CANONIZATION OF FATHER VINCENT CAPODANNO**

Father Vincent Capodanno served with the U.S. Marines, his candidacy for canonization falls under the Archdiocese of Military Services. *He was shot in the back 27 times as he administered Last Rites to the dying soldiers.* Servant of God Fr. Vincent Capodanno died on a battlefield in Vietnam on September 4, 1967.

In the early hours of September 4, 1967, during Operation Swift, a group of Marines found themselves surrounded by approximately 2,500 North Vietnamese soldiers. Fr. Capodanno was posthumously awarded the highest military honors — the Medal of Honor, the Bronze Star and Purple Heart — but his greatest title may eventually be “Saint.” Make every attempt to promote this movement in your post and among your fellow parishioners.

5. **KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS**

We need to celebrate the birth of Christ during the holiday season. Our salutation during the season should always be Merry Christmas!

The Catholic War Veterans have traditionally turned their efforts toward emphasizing the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, in all that has to do with the Christmas Season. We all should try to use religious Christmas cards, stamps and envelope stickers. Get your Post involved in the 3rd Vice Commander’s “Keep Christ in Christmas” program within the schools. Encourage your local merchants to display Christmas drawing from school children and highlight the birth of Jesus Christ.

6. **ROSARY**

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception has been designated the patroness of the United States. We should our membership to say the Rosary every day. You can dedicate one rosary a week to the Pope and count it in your Spiritual Bouquet. Start a monthly Rosary night at your post and invite and encourage all to attend. Volunteer to go to the Catholic Schools once a month and pray the Rosary with the students. We should say a Rosary before all our masses and before forma meetings.

7. **MEMORIAL PROGRAM**

“It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead.”

All echelons are encouraged to hold at least one Memorial Program during the year. These observations can take many different forms, but the beauty and dignity of our Ritual should be observed at all times. All our members who have passed away during a given year should be remembered and their names read at the time of these programs.

8. **DEATH OF A MEMBER**

Every individual who served in the Armed Forces of the United States is entitled to “Military Honors “at the time of their death. It is imperative that we as Catholic War Veterans recognize our veteran’s passing in some way. Whether it is at a funeral parlor, church or cemetery, a proper tribute should be given. As soon as we learn of the death of a member, we should discuss the Memorial service with the family and funeral director and then notify our members of the time and place of the memorial service. The wishes of the family must be always respected.

9. **PRO LIFE**

Unit 1st Vice Commanders show follow the legislative process in their states to abortion legislation. When such bills are submitted, we should secure copies of the proposals, determine which committees in the state Senate and House will consider the bill and then take a strong Pro-Life stand and support those legislators who advocate Pro-Life. Write letters opposing abortions to your representatives.

10. **CORPORATE COMMUNION MASSES AND BREAKFASTS**

Corporate Communion Masses have traditionally been held on the fifth Sunday of the month with the idea that all CWV units throughout the country would be attending mass and receiving Holy Communion on the same day as an act of solidarity nationwide. Breakfast after Mass can be a family affair and a way to renew old members. I encourage State Departments to schedule an annual Communion Mass and Breakfast in a central location or at the time of your annual convention. These events serve our spiritual needs and offer an opportunity to renew old friendships and make new acquaintances.

11. **LENTEN SEASON**

The Lenten season commences on Ash Wednesday February 14, 2024.
Good Friday is March 29, 2024.
Remind your membership of these dates and the season of Penance.

AMERICANISM

1. PATRIOTISM

American History has changed over the years and patriotism and respect for our country has decreased. It should be a priority in all CWV activities, that we promote patriotism at every opportunity. The best way to instruct and educate our citizens on this subject is to work with our schools and communities. Observe our national holidays. Honor our flag and bring back that love and devotion to the United States of America.

2. HONOR OUR FLAG

We need to teach our students and communities the custom of displaying the flag whenever possible. Make them aware of the sacrifices made throughout our history in the name of that revered emblem. Call attention to our cemeteries on Memorial Day, as a sea of red, white and blue flies over the graves of those that served our country. On Flag Day June 14, encourage all Echelons to promote the “Pause for the Pledge “at 7:00 pm on that date. Promote programs in the schools and community teaching the proper way to fold a flag as well as flag burning ceremonies to destroy old, tattered flags.

3. ELECTIONS-YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

The most important right guaranteed by our Constitution is the right to vote. As members of the Catholic War Veterans, before we exercise that right, we must take into consideration our obligations as a Catholic, a veteran and an American. Many of the issues today are completely opposed to the teaching of our faith. All these issues must be carefully considered before casting our ballot. For those who feel that one vote, more or less, doesn't matter, just look at the closeness of so many elections. Make sure we help ‘get out the vote” not only in national elections but in all our state and communities’ elections.

4. SECULARISM

Two of the greatest threats to America today, in addition to the war on terrorism, are pornography and substance abuse. As mankind continues to turn away from God, it becomes evident that these two issues drive down the spirit of America. It takes an entire community to come together and battle both evils. We, as Catholic, should be in the forefront of that fight.

5. SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

The war on terrorism continues. We must support those brave Americans who remain in harm's way. Pray for them every day and for their families here at home. Join the efforts of the local communities, groups, and individuals who send various items to those to provide some semblance of normality. Care packages to designate units, phone calling cards, children's pictures and cards bring a bit of home to our troops. You can check with your local service organizations for units which might benefit from things from home.

HOLIDAYS ON WHICH IT IS SUGGESTED TO FLY OUR AMERICAN FLAG 2023-2024

1. Labor Day.....Monday, September 4, 2023
2. Remembrance Patriot Day.....Monday, September 11, 2023
3. Columbus Day.....Monday, October 9, 2023
4. Election Day.....Tuesday, November 7, 2023
5. Veterans Day.....Saturday, November 11, 2023
6. Thanksgiving Day.....Thursday, November 23, 2023
7. Pearl Harbor Day.....Thursday, December 7, 2023
8. National C.W.V. Day.....Thursday, December 8, 2023
9. Christmas Day.....Monday, December 25, 2023
10. New Year's Day.....Monday, January 1, 2024
11. Martin Luther King Day.....Monday, January 15, 2024
12. St. Sebastian's Day.....Saturday, January 20, 2024
13. President's Day.....Monday, February 19, 2024
14. Easter Sunday.....Sunday, March 31, 2024
15. National Founder's Day (Msgr. Edward J. Higgins) Sunday, May 19, 2024
16. Memorial Day.....Monday, May 27, 2024
17. Flag Day.....Friday, June 14, 2024
18. Independence Day.....Thursday, July 4, 2024