

Title: The Miracle of Father Kapaun Priest, Soldier, and Korean War Hero	Author: Roy Wenzl, Travis Heyding
Media type: (check one) X Book _CD/Audio book _ DVD	Call Number: 922 EMI KAP
Review submitted by: Sharon Krieg	Date: 06/04/2015
Subject (e.g. Prayer, Family Life, Sacraments, Saints, Bible Study, Moral Conduct, Social Justice) Faith	
<p>1. What is this book about? (describe briefly) This book explains how Fr. Emil Kapaun, born of humble origins as a child of Czech immigrant farmers, as an adult, became a Catholic priest, a military chaplain, a Korean War hero, a Medal of Honor recipient, and a candidate for sainthood. He was so admired by his fellow soldiers that, post Korean War, many of them felt that he deserved to become a Saint as well as recipient of the Medal of Honor, and lobbied ardently towards that end on his behalf.</p>	
<p>2. What main message does the author convey? Fr. Kapaun's profound love of God and devoted service to Him and his fellow human beings had such an impact on those who benefited from his attentions that they were united to tell his life story and promote him to become a saint. To better understand Father Kapaun, the authors state, " In that Kansas farmhouse where he grew up, Kapaun had read the Gospels by kerosene lamplight. In those pages, he had found a hero to imitate--the Jesus who claimed he was divine but who walked among ordinary men, healing them, feeding them, standing up for the weakest among them and dying for them... In a homily Kapaun prepared for Palm Sunday 1941, while he was still a young parish priest, he wrote that if a crisis ever came, a person who wants to help others should imitate Christ. And that's what Father Kapaun did."</p>	
<p>3. What inspired you the most about this book, and why would you recommend it?: Fr. Kapaun treated everyone with respect. An example of this is his kindness toward those who were Muslims, Jews, Protestants and nonbelievers. In our present day many still struggle to be kind towards groups different from themselves. Fr. Kapaun's humility was such that he held himself not above others, not as a "Holy Joe", as some soldiers had encountered with other chaplains. "His way of witnessing Jesus was to spare the platitudes and dig foxholes or latrines alongside sweating soldiers." While being tortured by the POW camp guards Kapaun still was steadfast in his love of God. He stated, "If we fail to forgive, we're rejecting our own faith."</p>	
<p>4. Who would benefit from reading this book? I think a book dealing with someone who "walked the walk and talked the talk", as Fr. Kapaun did is encouraging for those of us who struggle every day to do the same.</p>	
<p>5. Any other impressions: Fr Kapaun was able to convince many soldiers that they would have a better chance of surviving if they helped each other instead of victimizing each other. Indeed, even today how much better the world would be if we helped each other instead of treating each other badly...</p>	