

Life of the Rev. Kapaun

President Barack Obama presented the Medal of Honor to the relatives of Rev. Emil Kapaun; a look at his life:

April 20, 1916 Kapaun is born in Pilsen, Kan.

June 9, 1940 Ordained a priest at what is now Newman University in Wichita, Kan.

June 20 Celebrates his first Mass at St. John Nepomucene in Pilsen

1943 Appointed auxiliary chaplain at Army Air Base in Herington



November Named pastor of St. John Nepomucene parish

August 1944 Enters the Army Chaplain Corps

March 1945-May 1946 Serves in India and Burma

Jan. 3, 1946 Promoted to captain

July Leaves chaplain service

October 1946 Does graduate work at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

1948 Rejoins Army chaplain service

July 1950 Ordered to Korea from Japan, a month after North Korea invades South Korea



Aug. 2 Earns Bronze Star for heroism in action

November Captured near Unsan, North Korea

May 23, 1951 Dies in a prison camp in Pyoktong, North Korea

Aug. 18 Posthumously awarded Distinguished Service Cross for his actions at Unsan

1993 Named Servant of God by Roman Catholic Church, the first step toward possible canonization

Oct. 1, 2009 Recommended for the Medal of Honor