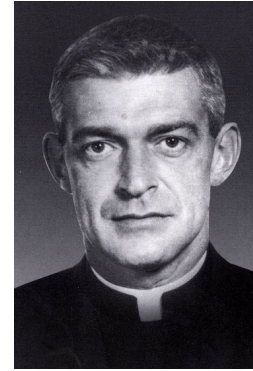
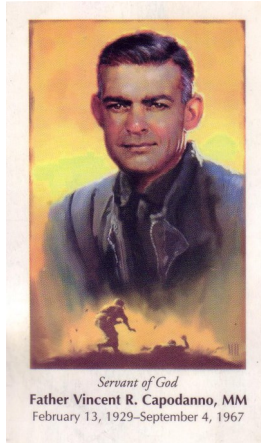


Procida origins

There are many different biographies of the Reverend available on the web or in the literary press, such as the book entitled 'The Grunt Padre' by Father Daniel L. MODE. However his origins are often glossed over or simply incorrect since it is often stated that he originally came from Gaeta or Naples. However his origins lie undeniably in Procida. His father's adoptive family, the COSTAGLIOLA DI RELLA, still live in Via Pizzaco. On May 5, 2013, the town of Procida paid tribute to Reverend Vincent Capodanno with an epigraph made of volcanic stone which was fixed on the façade of the paternal house in Via Pizzaco. The concept of 'origin' is however not solely restricted to blood lines but encompasses cultural affinity and the values and historic traditions which have been passed on. Procida is honored to have such close ties to a man of such great faith, Christian charity and courage.



Reverend Vincent R. CAPODANNO

Homage of Procida - May 5, 2013



The association 'La Grande Famille de Procida & Ischia' would like to thank the municipality of Procida and in particular Mayor Vincenzo CAPEZZUTO and Maria CAPODANNO for having made this project possible for the occasion of the 5th General Meeting of the association on May 5, 2013 in Procida.



v.3.0 - 06/2024



Vincent Robert CAPODANNO was born in New York on February 13, 1929.

He was ordained a priest in 1957 and his first parish mission, in the mountains of Taiwan, lasted for 7 years. In 1965 the Reverend joined the US Navy as Lieutenant Chaplain. In April 1966 he was posted to Vietnam.



On September 4, 1967 at 4.30 am, during 'Operation Swift' in the Que-Son valley, the first regiment of the 5th Marines encountered a north Vietnamese division of approximately 2,500 men on the outskirts of the village of Dong Son. The Marines were quickly overcome, victims of their far fewer numbers and their lack of organization. By 9.30 am, while reinforcements were awaited, the battle raged on. On the battlefield, Reverend CAPODANNO comforted the wounded and carried out last rites on the dead. Despite injuries to his face and with a severely wounded hand, he continued to encourage and assist his brothers in arms and it was there, among his own company and on enemy ground, that he died.

Today his remains lie in the family tomb in the Cemetery of Saint Peters on Staten Island, New York. On January 7, 1969, he was awarded a medal of honor at an official ceremony.

Following the war, chapels and monuments were erected in his memory in Taiwan, Japan, Iraq and in Que Son in Vietnam. Other homage has been paid in America, for example the 'Capodanno Boulevard' in New York. Nearer home, in Gaeta, there is a modern sculpture of the Italian American priest in the Piazza Capodanno. The US Navy also paid homage to the Lieutenant Chaplain by naming one of their ships the 'USS Capodanno (FF-1093)'. It was in service between 1973 and 1993 and was the first American ship to receive the blessing of Pope John Paul II on September 4, 1981 in Naples.



On May 21, 2006, Vincent R. CAPODANNO was proclaimed a 'servant of God' in the Catholic cathedral in Washington in recognition of his divine charity and courageous faith.

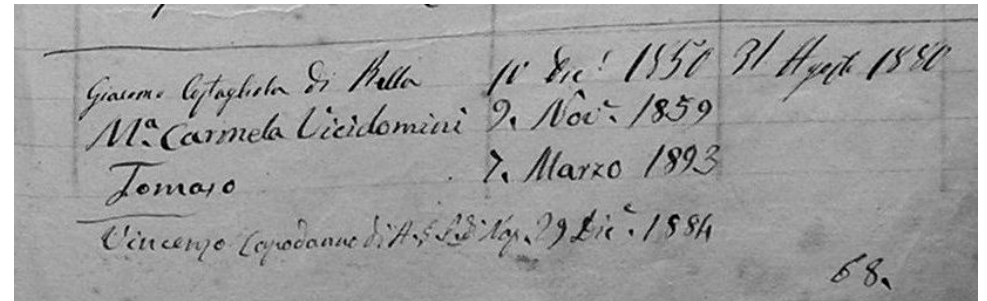
Reverend Vincent R. CAPODANNO was the son of Vincenzo CAPODANNO and Rachele BASILE.

His father, Vincenzo CAPODANNO, was one of many emigrants who boarded the ship 'SS Calabria' in Naples and which arrived in New York on May 11, 1903. Vincenzo, unmarried and a shoemaker by profession, had just turned 18 years old when he left his native Procida to join his uncle Vincenzo VICIDOMINI in Brooklyn. He was the son of Giacomo CAPODANNO and Maria COSTAGLIOLA.



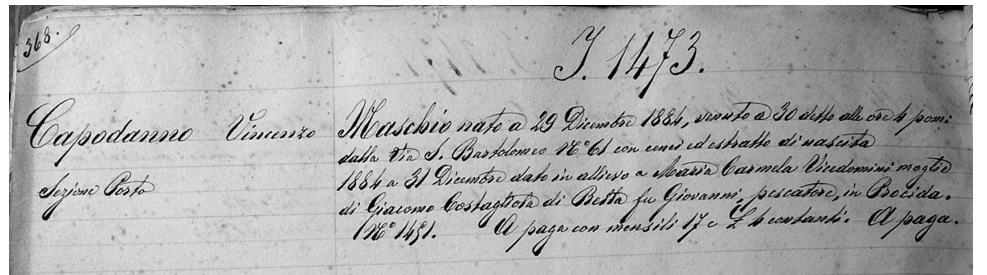
Ellis Island, SS Calabria

There is no entry for Giacomo CAPODANNO in the archives but this unpromising and potentially complex search was soon clarified thanks to the 'registers of Souls' (church censuses) which show Vincenzo CAPODANNO living with his parents in Via Pizzaco in Procida. It is surprising however to discover that Vincenzo Capodanno was actually a child of the Naples A.G.P. who was brought up by Giacomo COSTAGLIOLA DI RELLA and Maria Carmela VICIDOMINI.



Saint Michael Archangel Abbey of Procida, Registers of Souls 1895

Vincenzo was born on December 29, 1884 in Via San Bartolomeo near the port, in Naples but was abandoned the next day, December 30 in the 'Ruota' of the Santissima Annunziata (from which he was given his surname literally, 'new year'). Happily however, he was adopted on December 31 by the COSTAGLIOLA DI RELLA family from Procida.



Archives of Naples, Register of the Santissima Annunziata 1884