

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

"THEY MIGHT BE SAINTS"

From Tuesday's Pillar Post at The Pillar, a Catholic website covering news from around the Catholic Church. (pillarcatholic.com)

T HIS PAST WEEK, **FATHER EMIL KAPAUN** will be laid to rest this week in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception seventy years after he died in a Korean prisoner of war camp. Having won a Bronze Star (with a "V") for valor for rescuing a wounded soldier stranded in a fire-fight when there were no stretcher bearers available, the Catholic chaplain was captured with other members of his battalion by North Korean and Chinese forces at the Battle of Unsan, but not before rescuing 40 wounded soldiers (for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor). They were imprisoned in a camp near Pyoktong, North Korea after a forced march of 87 miles. There, Father Emil tended to the men, nursing the sick, digging latrines, giving away his food, smuggling

medicine and food into the camp, leading them in prayer, and even conducting Easter services in a terribly weakened state. He died later of malnutrition and pneumonia. He was buried in a mass grave with other soldiers; their remains were returned to the United States in 1956. It was announced on March 4th this year, that his remains had been identified. He was declared a Servant of God in 1993 by Saint John Paul II. Two miracles have been proposed for the continued investigation into his canonization.



I T HAD HARDLY BEEN AN IDEAL MARRIAGE FOR **CYPRIEN AND DAPHROSE RUGUMBA**. Daphrose was a devout Catholic, while Cyprien - a former seminarian, then a Rwandan poet - distrusted the Church, and was unfaithful to his vows. He had once abandoned her and their ten children, was oftentimes unfaithful, and fathered a child outside their marriage. She never gave up praying for him, however. In 1982, Cyprien had a radical conversion



after healing from a severe illness and once again embraced the Faith.

Proving that he was now a true disciple of Christ's, Daphrose - through an extraordinary grace - came to forgive him and they both devoted themselves to evangelization, missionary, and charitable works. On April 7, 1994, after having spent the entire night in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, they were murdered with their six children in their home, among the first to be killed in the Rwandan genocide. They were founding members of the Emmanuel Community of Rwanda, with many Hutus and Tutsis counted among their friends. Their cause for canonization was begun by the Archbishop of Kigali, Rwanda.

