



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Most Reverend
Joseph F. Naumann, D.D.
Archdiocese of Kansas
City in Kansas
Board Chairman

Most Reverend
John B. Brungardt, D.D.
Diocese of Dodge City

Most Reverend
Carl A. Kemme, D.D.
Diocese of Wichita

Most Reverend
Gerald L. Vincke, S.T.L.
Diocese of Salina

Mr. Chuck Weber
Executive Director

Chuck@KansasCatholic.org
www.KansasCatholic.org
Phone: 785-227-9247
Cell: 316-708-5350

KANSAS STATEHOUSE OFFICE
Kansas Catholic Conference
204 SW 8th Ave.
Topeka, KS 66603

Written PROPONENT testimony, SB 431 Directing the capitol preservation committee to approve plans for a memorial honoring Emil Joseph Kapaun.

Date: March 5, 2024

To: State Representative Ron Ellis, Chairman, Kansas House Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs

From: Chuck Weber, Executive Director, Kansas Catholic Conference

Chairman Ellis and members of the Kansas House Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs

My name is Chuck Weber, and I serve as Executive Director of the Kansas Catholic Conference, the public policy voice of the Catholic Bishops of Kansas.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of SB 431, the first step in the legislative process seeking approval for plans to place a memorial at the Kansas Statehouse honoring Kansas native son Chaplain Father Emil Kapaun.

There can be little doubt that in our times we need exemplary role models for living. We submit to you today that the life and example of Chaplain Father Emil Kapaun is most worthy of recognition for all Kansans.

Awarded with the Medal of Honor by President Obama, Father Kapaun's heroism, patriotism and self-sacrifice serve as a shining light to all people. We enthusiastically support efforts of the Kansas Legislature and the Capitol Preservation Committee to move forward with plans that we hope will ultimately lead to the placement of a memorial at the Kansas Statehouse so that Chaplain Father Kapaun's story may continue to serve as an inspiration for all people for many years to come.

Thank you for your consideration of this most worthy project.

Gerald C. "Chuck" Weber
Executive Director, Kansas Catholic Conference
316-708-5350

Chuck@KansasCatholic.org