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Welcome to Father Vlad's Newsletter!

*I will be glad to stay in touch with you for updates and special seasonal messages, but if you prefer not to receive these messages, please unsubscribe below.
Thank you.*

www.fathervlad.com

Newsletter nr 63 - 16th November 2025 Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Turning of the tide?

Generation Z (Gen Z), whose dates are most commonly cited as 1997–2012, though some sources vary slightly, with start dates often ranging from the mid-1990s and end dates up to the early 2010s. This generation, also known as Zoomers, are the "digital natives" who grew up immersed in the internet and digital technology, with key events shaping their worldview including the rise of smartphones and social media.

A survey by Samsung discovered that Gen Z prefer gym and early nights to going out late at night. 74% of 18-28-year olds have skipped a night out to make sure they are fresh for a workout next morning.

Instead of necking alcohol at 3.00am, up to 34% regularly pick up health drinks, such as ginger shots, kombucha or matcha, which may be healthier than coffee due to its lower and gentler caffeine-induced energy boost from a combination of caffeine and L-theanine, which also promotes calmness and focus.

According to a 2025 [Bible Society](#) survey, overall church attendance in England and Wales has risen significantly by 50% over six years, particularly among young adults, with Gen Z attendance quadrupling since 2018.

This trend is also seen in specific denominations, such as The Church of England, which reported a rise in attendance for the fourth consecutive year in early 2025. While these findings suggest a potential revival, some experts advise caution, as the data is somewhat at odds with other, possibly more reliable, data sets.

Global sales figures for Bibles vary, with estimates for recent years ranging from 20 million to 100 million copies annually. This range reflects the challenges in tracking global sales, which include commercial sales, donations by organizations, and a recent increase in digital downloads.

In 2022, United Bible Societies reported that member organizations distributed 35.5 million complete Bibles worldwide.

In late 2024, some reports indicated that U.S. Bible sales were up 22% compared to the previous year, far outpacing the growth of other print books.

The overall amount of money spent on Bibles in the UK increased by 87% between 2019 and 2024.

The number of Bibles sold in the UK also rose by 61% in that same timeframe.

These figures are derived from Nielsen BookScan data, compiled and analyzed by the Christian publisher SPCK Group.

While a definitive UK-wide figure isn't available, recent reporting for 2025 shows thousands of adults participating in the RCIA process, with significant increases reported in various dioceses like Westminster (over 500) and Southwark (over 450), and a combined total of nearly 4,000 participating in the Rite of Election Mass across England and Wales.

This indicates a growing number of adults becoming Catholic, with many attributing the trend to greater

RCIA (*The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*) is the process for adults to become Catholic. It involves preparation for the sacraments of [Baptism](#), Confirmation, and Eucharist, typically celebrated at the [Easter Vigil](#).

A general increase in RCIA participants is being reported across Catholic dioceses in England and Wales. New figures show the number of adults seeking baptism in the Church in France and Belgium continues to rise rapidly.

The number of adult baptisms in France has increased by 30%, from 5,463 in 2023 to 7,135 in 2024, the French bishops' conference [reported](#) March 27.

The number of baptisms of adolescents - young people aged 11 to 17 who are in middle or high school - has also risen sharply, from 2,861 in 2023 to 5,025 in 2024.

The figures are the highest since the French bishops' conference began tabulating the data more than 20 years ago.

Recent years have seen a significant surge in male novices for the [English Dominican Province](#), with 8 men entering the novitiate in 2025, indicating a hopeful future for the Order.

In the UK, an estimated £13.9 billion was donated to charities in 2023, an increase of nearly 10% from the previous year. The value of volunteering saw a steady increase before the pandemic, but fell sharply in 2020. It has since recovered to pre-pandemic levels.

Only God knows the future yet statistics hint that faith in God – across the three Abrahamic faiths – is likely to increase. Born in 1939, I will not be around in space-time to rejoice if, indeed, it does.

Father Vlad

Father Vlad's Blog



Please visit [Father Vlad Blog](#) for latest homilies, messages and musings.

Recent Blogs:

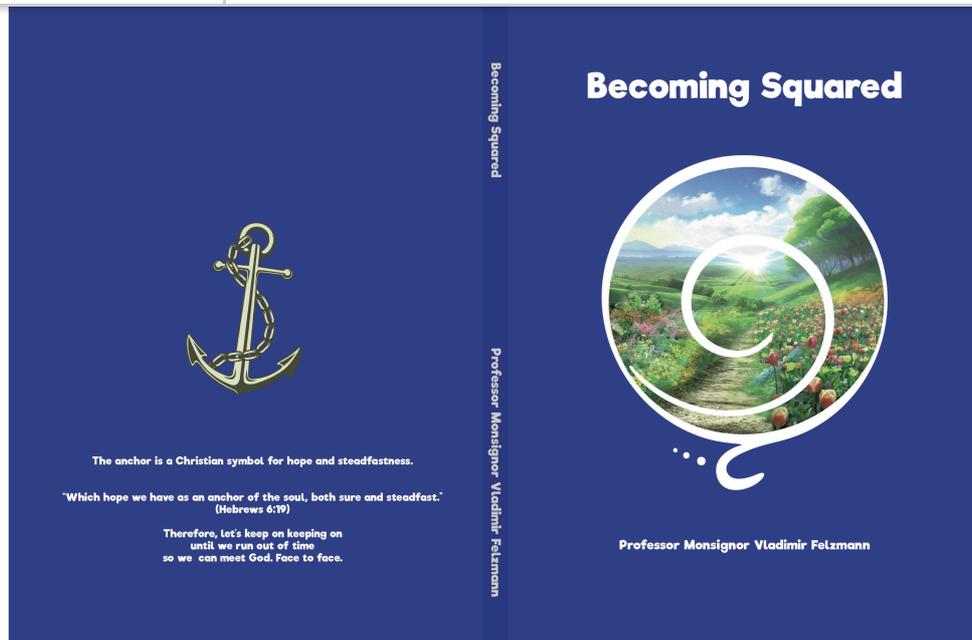
15/11/2025 [Prayer in Sport](#)

09/11/2025 [Dedication of the Lateran Basilica](#)

02/11/2025 [All Saints](#)

Becoming Squared, the latest book by Msgr. Vladimir Felzmann is available!

click on the image below for PDF download



Dementia Carers Support – getting to know the facts – and helping

The latest initiative by Father Vlad, in support of Dementia sufferers. Please read the following article, and email Father Vlad with any ideas, comments, suggestions or to get involved.

[Dementia Carers Support – getting to know the facts – and helping](#)

Please email your suggestions to vladimirfelzmann@rcdow.org.uk



The Universe Catholic Weekly has ceased its publication. However, the entire collection of Father Vlad's articles is still available on his [website](#). Father Vlad will continue writing his articles on sport & life, for his [website](#) and newsletter. For the entire collection of Universe Catholic Weekly articles, please click [here](#).



Father Vlad podcasts on **Radio Maria England** are available!

Please follow this link to access all podcasts: [Father Vlad's Radio Maria podcasts](#)

A Journey to Eternity

All, three parts of my memories “A Journey to Eternity” are now available. If you are interested, just email me at

Vladimirfelzmann@rcdow.org.uk or msgr.vladimir.felzmann@gmail.com and copies will be on their way to you, they put some flesh on what there is in my Biography.

(click on the images to download a free pdf version)



Vlad stroking ICBC boat, Head of the River, 1939

Fr Vlad Felzmann was born in Prague in 1939 and came to London at the end of World War II. He studied Civil Engineering at Imperial College London and received his Doctorate in Divinity (summa cum laude) from Lateran University in Rome.

Vlad has led retreats, lectured and spiritually guided people ever since his priestly ordination in 1969. He speaks English, Czech, Spanish, Italian, French and Latin. He enjoys friendship, prayer and writing. He keeps as fit as possible and does press-ups daily to the total of each year of his life since conception.

He is the Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy's dedicated Catholic Chaplain and is also Catholic Chaplain for sport, CEO of The John Paul II Foundation for Sport (which he launched in 2011) and is a trustee of The Passage, CaAPA and Genesis. A social entrepreneur, Vlad founded and directed two different pilgrimages to Lourdes and founded the Spiritual Peer Educational Centres SPEC, LOFT and SPECeast.

£3.00



ALL SQUARED

A Journey to Eternity

The early years: 1939-59



Professor Monsignor Vladimir Felzmann
(aka Father Vlad)



Main facade of St Peter's Basilica, Rome

Fr Vlad Felzmann was born in Prague in 1939 and came to London at the end of World War II. He studied Civil Engineering at Imperial College London and received his Doctorate in Divinity (summa cum laude) from the Lateran University in Rome.

Vlad has led retreats, lectured and spiritually guided people ever since his priestly ordination in 1969. He speaks English, Czech, and still a bit of Spanish, Italian, French and used to speak Latin. He enjoys friendship, prayer and writing. He keeps as fit as possible and does press-ups - alternating this with squats - daily to the total of each year of his life since conception.

He was director of the Diocese of Westminster's work with Young People and Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy Catholic Chaplain. For many years he was a Trustee of The Passage and is the Catholic Chaplain for Sport, founder of the John Paul II Foundation for Sport (which he launched in 2011), chair of CaAPA, and trustee emeritus of Genesis. A social entrepreneur, Vlad founded and directed two different Diocesan Pilgrimages - YAP for young people and WOP for all - to Lourdes and founded the Spiritual Peer Educational Centres SPEC, LOFT and SPECeast.

£11.99



ALL SQUARED

A Journey to Eternity

My Years in Opus Dei: 1959-1982



Professor Monsignor Vladimir Felzmann
(aka Father Vlad)

A Journey to Eternity: My Years in Opus Dei: 1959-1982

Professor Monsignor Vladimir Felzmann



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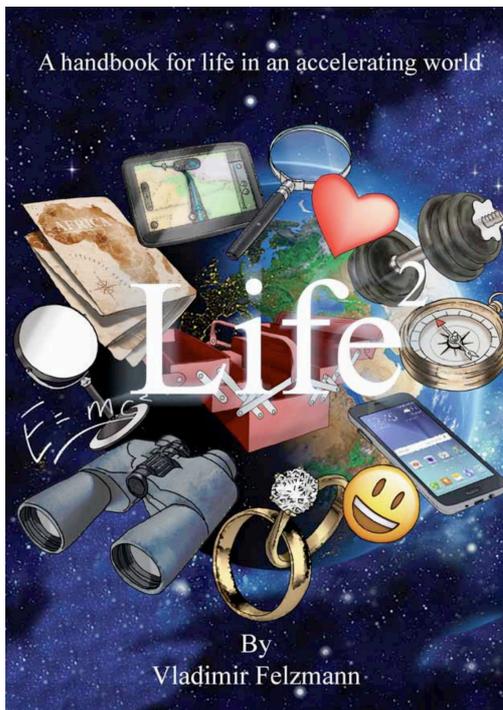
£5.00

A Journey to Eternity

The Later Years: 1982 onwards; forever upwards



Professor Monsignor Vladimir Felzmann
(aka Father Vlad)



Don't forget to buy Father Vlad's book Life Squared!

As I approached my 80th birthday, I wanted to find out what I really thought about life. Writing this book has crystallised my experiences. I now know better what I have learned and what I think.

Now, that I'm coming to the end of my life, I have finally learned how to live. Time's slippage nudged me to act on my dream of passing what I have learned on to others.

Father Vlad

[download the introduction to Life Squared](#)

To buy your copy of the book (£12.95+pp) please contact Father Vlad at: msg.vladimir.felzmann@gmail.com or +44 (7810) 116 508

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UKRAINE



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