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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 64 - 30th November 2025 First Sunday of Advent

Turning of the tide?

During the 1990s and early 2000s, surveys from Gallup recorded a decline in church attendance and an increase in people identifying as non-religious. Generation Z (Gen Z) 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.

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.

For the first time in 2024, digital Bibles surpassed printed Bibles in distribution by member societies of the United Bible Societies. Printed Bibles accounted for 22.5 million copies, while digital versions totalled 25.9 million.

In 2024, the largest distribution of printed Bibles occurred in Brazil, India, and China. Spanish, Portuguese, and English were the most widely distributed languages.

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.

Some analysts believe global conflicts, economic instability, and the rise of artificial intelligence are prompting people to turn to religious texts for comfort.

£2.69 million to £5.02 million. This significant rise in revenue also corresponds to a 61% increase in the volume of Bibles sold during the same period, indicating a substantial uptick in units sold.

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.

According to Reuters, this surge is largely attributed to a growing interest in spiritual matters, especially among Generation Z, who are actively seeking meaning and stability.

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.

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](#).

In 2025, in [Westminster Diocese](#), over 500 adults participated in the Rite of Election, the largest number since 2018. In the [Archdiocese of Southwark](#), more than 450 adults are expected to be received into the Church, a decade-high number.

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 adults seeking baptism in the Catholic Church in France and Belgium continues to rise rapidly, according to new figures released in Holy Week, making for a surprise bit of Easter good news.

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.

Taking a look at the three 'B's': belonging, believing and behaving, while church attendance may be decreasing nationally (there are more RCs attending mass than C of E folk attending Sunday church services), Judging by the number of Bibles purchased and above all charitable behaviour, the picture is rosier.

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.

It seems to me – an optimist – that the tide might, indeed, be turning.

Father Vlad

**Recent Blogs:**

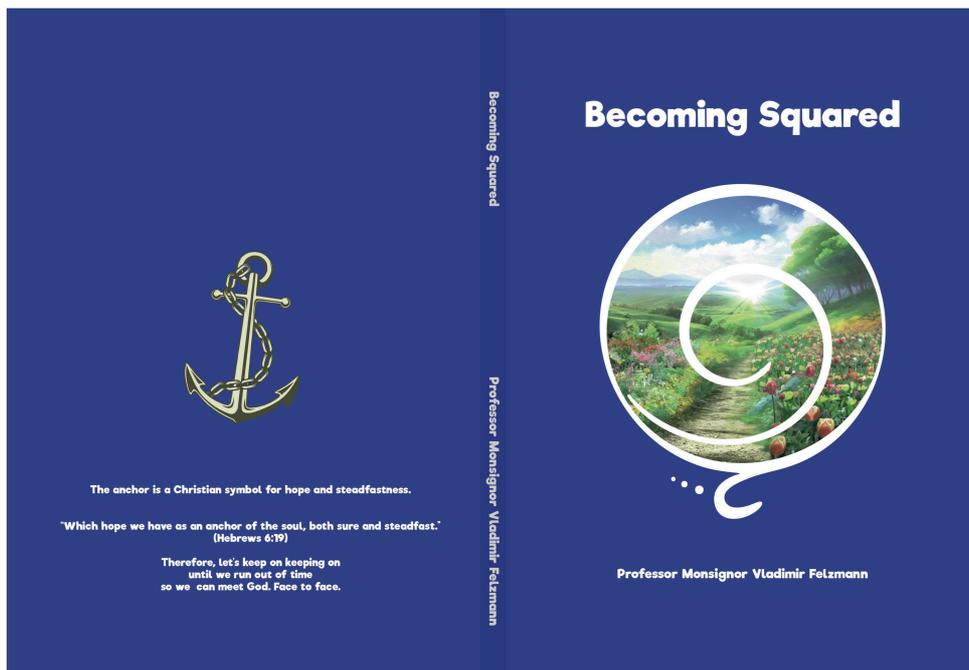
28/11/2025 [Golf – and Spirituality](#)

23/11/2025 [Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe](#)

16/11/2025 [Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

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

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 msg.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)

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<h1>A Journey to Eternity</h1> <p>The early years: 1939-59</p> 
<p>Vlad stroking ICBC boat, Head of the River, 1959</p> <p>£3.00</p>		<p>Professor Monsignor Vladimir Felzmann (aka Father Vlad)</p>



Main facade of St Peter's Basilica, Rome

London and received his Doctorate in Divinity (summa cum laude) from the Lateran University in Rome.

Vlad has led retreats, lectured to 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 WDP for all – to Lourdes and founded the Spiritual Peer Educational Centres SPEC, LOFT and SPECast.

£11.99



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to Eternity

My Years in Opus Dei: 1959–1982



Professor Monsignor Vladimir Felzmann
(aka Father Vlad)



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£5.00



A Journey to Eternity

The Later Years: 1982 onwards; forever upwards



Professor Monsignor Vladimir Felzmann
(aka Father Vlad)

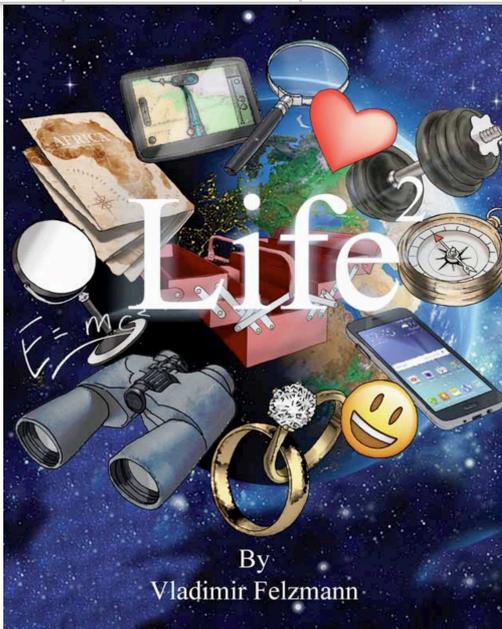
Don't forget to buy Father Vlad's book Life Squared!

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](#)



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