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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](http://www.fathervlad.com)

## Newsletter nr 67 - 4th January 2026 Second Sunday after Christmas

### **Generosity**

*Generous is a word we may use to describe people who have positively impacted our lives. Although generosity is often associated with monetary gifts, generosity extends well beyond money and includes small acts of kindness and compassion from a loved one, friend or even a stranger.*

*“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” (Hebrews 13:16.)*

*In a society that revolves around trade and business, generosity can become calculative and overcomplicated, but the Bible teaches us that generosity is simple.*

*Just as we teach young children to practice sharing, teachings in the Bible also demonstrate that sharing what we have is the simplest expression of generosity.*

*Generosity is all about the heart*

*“If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing”. (1 Corinthians 13:3)*

*Before we practice generosity, the Bible teaches us that giving to others is inextricably tied to loving others. Without loving our neighbours— including our family, friends, colleagues and vulnerable members in our community— even the grandest acts of generosity are meaningless.*

*On the flip side, the smallest acts of kindness and generosity are considered momentous when coupled with a heart of love.*

*Generosity involves more than just money*

*“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share”. (1 Timothy 6:18)*

*Although the Bible provides plenty of examples that encourage material generosity towards the poor and oppressed, generosity and various other good deeds can be expressed in a multitude of ways.*

*Giving our time, resources, talents or even a listening ear or a kind word, can be expressions of generosity to people in need. Consider baking a neighbour a cake, volunteering with your church at a local shelter or writing an email to encourage a colleague can be just as important expressions of our generosity towards others.*

*“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with*

many of us are privileged to enjoy high living standards, accessible health care and public education but the comfort we have can also breed uncertainty and anxiety. Ironically, the more we have, the more we fear losing our wealth. The Bible reminds us that life on earth is uncertain and nothing is guaranteed, but when we put our hope in God's provision, we can rest assured that he'll provide for our needs. Giving to others helps us tangibly practise trusting in God rather than our riches or belongings.

As Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' (Acts 20:35)

In worldly economic terms, giving means we have less than what we started with, but the Bible teaches us that when we give to others, we gain. It seems illogical but it's a blessed truth that Luke, the author of Acts, encourages us to remember.

This verse provides us with a heart-warming reminder that giving to someone in need or supporting a cause like homelessness, can bring us a great sense of fulfilment and joy. The story of Jesus Christ's life and ministry in the Bible is full of examples of generosity. Jesus sets a high standard of giving and caring for others because in the kingdom of God, people in need are just as important as the wealthiest people in this world. As we learn how to adopt principles of generosity, let's continue to look to Jesus as the ultimate expression of generosity and sacrifice.

An article in the October 18, 2025, issue of "The Week " discusses how altruism and charitable giving significantly contribute to the happiness and well-being of wealthy individuals, potentially linked to the psychological rewards of giving. Such discussions often highlight the "warm glow" effect from giving, a sense of purpose beyond material gain, social benefits, and the increased affordability of altruism for the rich. You can read the full analysis at [The Week](#).

Some quotes on generosity.

"Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible" (Dalai Lama)

"No one has ever become poor by giving" and "You can always give something, even if it is only kindness!" is attributed to [Anne Frank](#). (1929-45)

The saying reflects her belief that generosity, kindness, and sharing enrich the human spirit in a way that material possessions cannot.

"We rise by lifting others" - Robert Green Ingersoll (1833-99), nicknamed "the Great Agnostic", was an American lawyer, writer, and orator during the Golden Age of Free Thought, who campaigned in defence of agnosticism.

"Your greatness is not what you have, it's what you give." is attributed to **Alice Hocker**. (1927-2020) author of [Finding Inner Peace](#).

"Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need." Gibran Khalil Gibran, (1883-1931) usually referred to in English as Kahlil Gibran, was a Lebanese-American writer, poet and visual artist; he was also considered a philosopher, although he himself rejected the title

"Do not wait to be rich to be generous." is widely attributed to the French philosopher and author **Albert Camus** (1913-60), French philosopher, novelist, author, dramatist, journalist, world federalist, and political activist. He was the recipient of the 1957 Nobel Prize in Literature at the age of 44, the second-youngest recipient in history.

Father Vlad

## **Father Vlad's Blog**

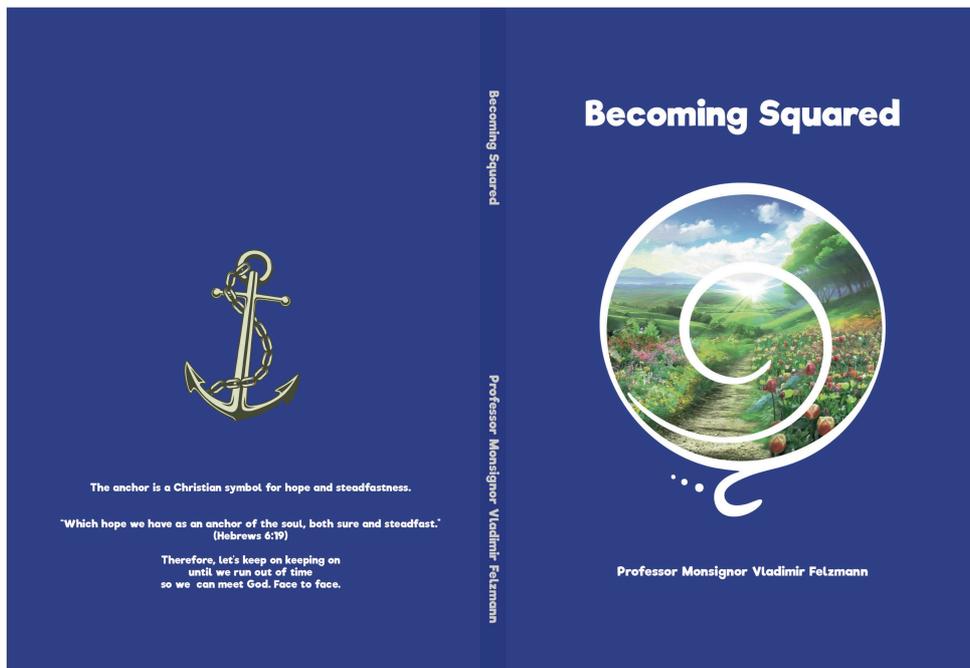
Please visit [Father Vlad Blog](#) for latest homilies, messages and musings.



- 02/01/2026 [Blessedness](#)
- 01/01/2026 [Mary, the Holy Mother of God](#)
- 28/12/2025 [The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph](#)
- 25/12/2025 [Christmas Day](#)
- 24/12/2025 [Christmas Eve](#)
- 21/12/2025 [Fourth Sunday of Advent](#)
- 14/12/2025 [Third Sunday of Advent](#)

**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](mailto:vladimirfelzmann@rcdow.org.uk)

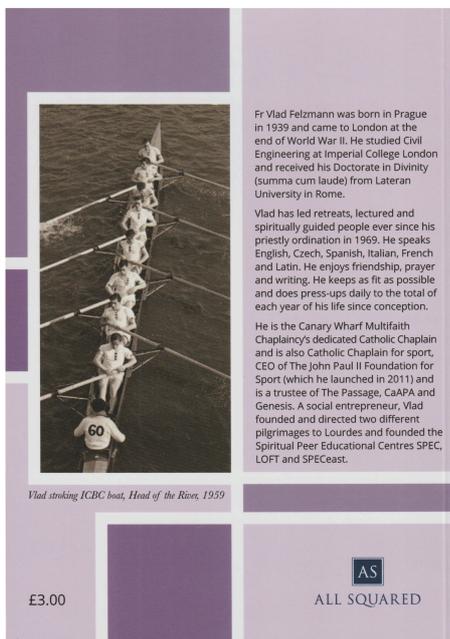


The Universe Catholic Weekly has ceased its publication. However, the entire collection of Father Vlad's articles is still available on his [website](#). Father Vlad will continue writing his articles on sport & life, for his [website](#) and newsletter. For the entire collection of Universe Catholic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

## 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](mailto:Vladimirfelzmann@rcdow.org.uk) or [mshr.vladimir.felzmann@gmail.com](mailto:mshr.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)



**A Journey to Eternity**  
The early years: 1939-59

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.

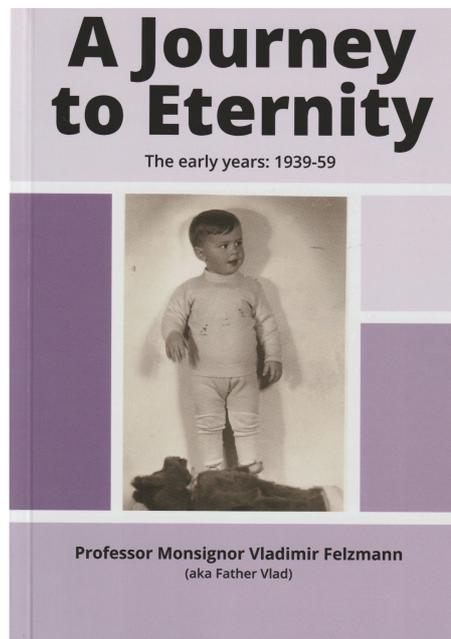
Vlad has led retreats, lectured and spiritually guided people ever since his priestly ordination in 1969. He speaks English, Czech, Spanish, Italian, French and Latin. He enjoys friendship, prayer and writing. He keeps as fit as possible and does press-ups daily to the total of each year of his life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

Vlad stroking ICBC boat, Head of the River, 1959

£3.00

AS 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

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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.

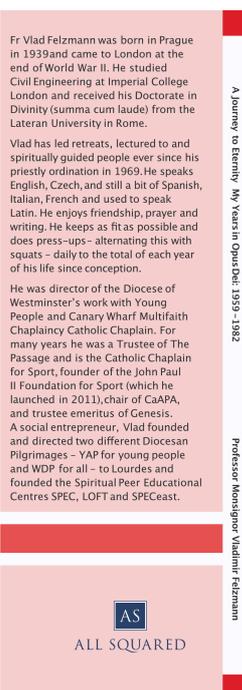
He was director of the Diocese of Westminster's work with Young People and Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy Catholic Chaplain. For many years he was a Trustee of The Passage and is the Catholic Chaplain for Sport, founder of the John Paul II Foundation for Sport (which he launched in 2011), chair of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

Main facade of St Peter's Basilica, Rome

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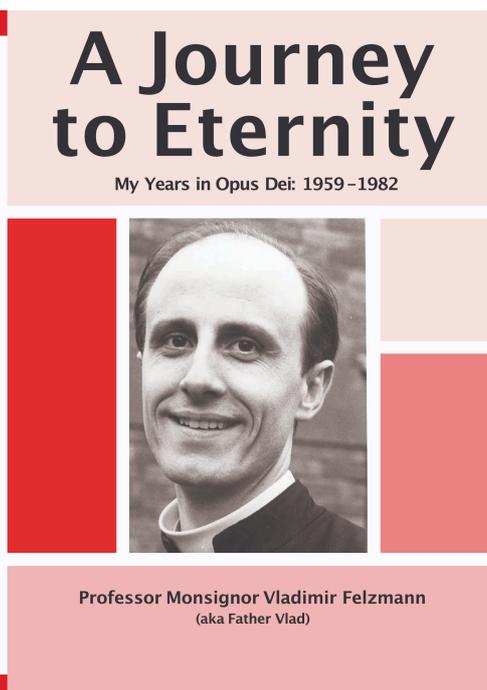
ISBN 978-1-916875-2-1  
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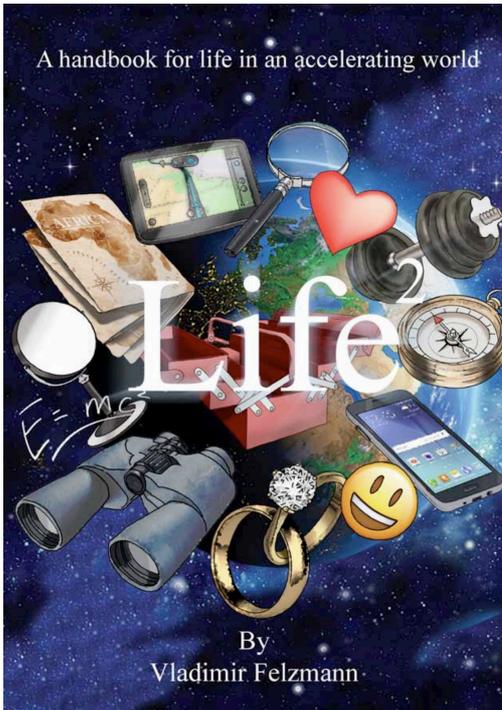
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# A Journey to Eternity

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](mailto:msg.vladimir.felzmann@gmail.com) or +44 (7810) 116 508





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