



MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

Vatican II reminded all of us that every baptized Catholic is responsible for the transmission of our faith to the next generation. We fulfill that mission by our daily witness of a lived faith in action, our involvement in catechetical programs, our sincere prayers, and our encouragement of vocations to the priesthood, religious life, or consecrated service.

Therefore, we are all vocation promoters! In the Archdiocese for the Military Services we fulfill that role principally by encouraging young people to consider a specific vocation and by the Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program.

Almighty God has blessed this Archdiocese with at least a 10% annual contribution to priestly ordinations in the USA. That statement provokes both pride and commitment. The commitment obliges us to continue the fostering of vocations and the support of the fine young men studying in the seminary.

Thank you in advance for meeting the commitment.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

Timothy P. Broglio

The Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio
Archbishop for the Military Services, USA



HISTORY OF THE CHAPLAINCY

In the history of our country, Catholic priests have served the American armed forces with distinction and valor. Since the establishment of the AMS in 1985, and previously through the military vicariate, priests were released from U.S. dioceses and religious communities whose bishops and superiors recognized their collegial responsibility to "Serving Those Who Serve". The heroic deeds of Catholic military chaplains called to battle in defense of the Nation comprise one of the most glorious chapters in American Church history. The long list of those who gave their lives in service to God and Country stands as a shining tribute.

While a Catholic military chaplain remains incardinated in his home diocese or religious community, the Archbishop grants him endorsement and faculties to function as a military priest-chaplain.

"We hold no small hope in you, dear Son, who desired so ardently to look after the spiritual needs of your fellow citizens, that you enlisted in the military services a second time so as to dedicate yourself, even at the risk of your own life, to ensuring that the faithful serving to defend your country might not be deprived of the spiritual food they need to survive."

-- Pope Francis to Bishop-elect Chad Zielinski,
elected to Fairbanks, 2014

MISSION OF THE AMS

The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS) was established by Saint John Paul II in 1985 as the only organization responsible for providing the Church's full range of pastoral ministries and spiritual services to Catholics in the U.S. armed forces.

As the Nation's only archdiocese without geographical boundaries, the AMS endorses and grants faculties to priests for on-site ministry at more than 220 U.S. military installations in 29 countries and 153 VA Medical Centers throughout the U.S.



CO-SPONSORSHIP

The Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program was set up between the AMS and cooperating U.S. dioceses and religious communities to replenish the ranks of Catholic priests both in the U.S. military and throughout the Church.

Both the military and the priesthood require many of the same virtues, including valor, discipline and commitment to service.

The Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program enables men, who show evidence of a vocation to priestly ministry in the military to receive financial support for seminary from both the AMS and their local dioceses or religious communities. Further benefits enjoyed by Co-Sponsored seminarians and his home diocese include:

1. AMS Vocation Office acts as a liaison with the military advocating always on behalf of the seminarian and his home diocese.
2. Advisement to the home diocese regarding the seminarians military suitability and formation.
3. Annual AMS Seminarian visits.
4. Yearly AMS Seminarian Gathering in Washington, DC.
5. Post 9/11 & GI Bill (for those with prior military service) may be used toward their seminary formation or later in their priesthood for continuing education.
6. Leadership, counseling, and crisis management training.
7. Extensive Young Adult ministry experience.
8. Hospital Chaplaincy Training.
9. Becoming part of the military family and able to relate to Veterans in the parish.
10. Excellent and affordable health care, that in some cases may be better than the diocesan seminarian insurance.

DISCERNMENT AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

STEP 1 Prayerfully seek the advice of your local pastor or Catholic military chaplain. If you are a seminarian, discuss your interest and discernment regarding the military chaplaincy with your formation director and bishop or religious superior. Follow their directions.

STEP 2 With their permission contact the AMS Director of Vocations. You will then be asked to complete a survey which provides personal, academic, ecclesiastical, and military information about yourself. On the basis of information gathered, specific guidance will be offered to you by the AMS Office of Vocations.

Director of Vocations

Phone: 202-719-3600

Email: vocations@milarch.org

www.milarch.org/vocations

STEP 3 Attend one of the two annual vocation discernment retreats sponsored by the AMS. This retreat will give you the opportunity to meet with the AMS Director of Vocations and military priest-chaplains from the different branches of service to learn more about the rewards and challenges of serving both God and your country. The two retreat dates will be:

Baltimore, MD

Thursday, September 28-Sunday, October 1, 2023

TBD

Spring 2024

STEP 4 If a mutual decision has been made between you and your bishop or religious superior giving you permission to be a Co-Sponsored seminarian chaplain candidate, you will then be invited to apply for the Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program on our website at: www.milarch.org/vocations.



THE ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE
MILITARY SERVICES, USA

WWW.MILARCH.ORG/VOCATIONS



THE ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE
MILITARY SERVICES, USA



2022-2023 CO-SPONSORED
SEMINARIAN PROGRAM

MILITARY CHAPLAIN’S VOCATION

Military chaplaincy is a “vocation within a vocation”. It is a priestly ministry to people in military service to their country. Pope Benedict XVI told an October 22, 2011 international meeting of Military Ordinaries that,

“The work of evangelization in the military world calls for a growing assumption of responsibility, so that, in this sphere, there may always be a new, convinced and joyful proclamation of Jesus Christ, the only hope of life and peace for humanity.”

As a sacramental minister, the military priest-chaplain brings Christ and the healing presence of the Church to women and men serving in an endless range of stressful, dangerous, and often life-threatening circumstances. He must be prepared to transfer from homeland ministry to ministry in a war zone on a moment’s notice and act as comforter to service members and their families in a way few others will ever experience.

Providing for the spiritual and sacramental needs of men and women in uniform is an essential task, and Catholic military chaplains are in higher demand now than ever before. Christ needs men to answer the call to the chaplaincy for the good of the Church, the country, and the world.

SEMINARY TRAINING

For men currently in the armed forces, after initial screening by the AMS, the military service member will be put in contact with a local diocese or religious community participating in the Co-Sponsored Seminar-ian Program. The candidate must satisfy the vocational, psychological, academic, and spiritual evaluations of the local diocese or community. This normally requires personal interviews with the local vocation director and members of an admissions board. Upon acceptance, the candidate will attend a seminary chosen by the local bishop or religious superior.

THE ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES, USA CO-SPONSORED SEMINARIANS



MARK BECKER
CHARLOTTE
NAVY



STEVEN BILLMAIER
TOLEDO
NAVY



REV. MR. DAVID CHACKO
SAN ANTONIO
ARMY



PAUL COLLINS
LOS ANGELES
NAVY



BR. PHILIP COLLINS
SERVANTS OF CHRIST JESUS
ARMY



DOMINIC COUNIHAN
PHOENIX
ARMY



JAMES CRAIG
CORPUS CHRISTI
ARMY



PATRICK DILORETO
COLORADO SPRINGS
ARMY



ERIN DONLON
PORTLAND, ME
NAVY



CHRISTOPHER FEIST
WASHINGTON
NAVY



HOLDEN GIEFER
SALINA
AIR FORCE



RAYMOND GILMORE
WASHINGTON
AIR FORCE



ZACHARY GLICK
GARY
AIR FORCE



RAYMOND GOINS
ARLINGTON
ARMY



JACOB GWYNN
VENICE
NAVY



JOSEPH HEISEY
WASHINGTON
ARMY



ALEXANDER HOUSTON
KNOXVILLE
ARMY



REV. MR. STEPHEN
HUGHES
CINCINNATI
AIR FORCE



CONRAD JACONETTE
OWENSBORO
AIR FORCE



JOSHUA JOHNSON
HOLY PROTECTION OF
MARY BCE OF PHOENIX
AIR FORCE



MATTHEW KURT
DETROIT
ARMY



JEREMY LANAS
NASHVILLE
ARMY



SAMUEL MCPEAK
RICHMOND
ARMY



ESTEBAN
MERKT-NAVEDO
ST. AUGUSTINE
NAVY



JOSHUA MILLER
FAIRBANKS
ARMY



RYAN MOSHAK
INDIANAPOLIS
ARMY



REV. MR. MICHAEL
NUGENT
ARLINGTON
NAVY



COLIN PATRICK
ATLANTA
ARMY



ANTHONY POORE
HONOLULU
NAVY



MICHAEL SAMPSON
ARLINGTON
NAVY



BRENDON SCHNEIBEL
FARGO
NAVY



MARK WAGNER
MADISON
AIR FORCE



REV. MR. CARLOS
WARFIELD
MONTEREY
ARMY



WILLIAM WATERS
GALVESTON-HOUSTON
ARMY



ANDREW WHIPPLE
GRAND RAPIDS
NAVY



CHRISTOPHER WILD
BUFFALO
NAVY



REV. MR. CHARLES
WILTON
ARLINGTON
NAVY



JOSEPH YTEM
CHARLESTON
AIR FORCE



MILITARY TRAINING

Seminarians entering major seminary are expected to enter the military chaplain candidate program during their theological training. Seminarians are free to choose any one of the three military service branches in which to serve (Army; Navy, which includes ministry to all of the Sea Services; or Air Force which includes ministry to the Space Force). Upon entrance into the chaplain candidate program the seminarian will be commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant or Ensign in his chosen branch of service. As a chaplain candidate, the seminarian will be granted opportunities to engage in military training or pastoral ministry under the supervision of a senior military chaplain on a military installation or naval vessel.

The chaplain candidate program gives the seminarian a taste of what ministry as a military chaplain would be like by providing him essential training, which informs his discernment. Through the program, the military provides seminarians with the discipline and leadership skills to meet the physical and mental demands of military chaplaincy, while enhancing their formation experience in the seminary and ministry as Catholic priests.

Upon ordination to the priesthood, all Co-Sponsored chaplain candidates are expected to serve as chaplains in the Reserve until entrance into active duty. The AMS requires all newly ordained priests to serve at least three (3) years in their home diocese or religious community before joining the military full time.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any single Catholic young man who is a US citizen with college experience who shows signs of having a vocation to priestly ministry, can meet the academic requirements for seminary training, and qualifies for military service is eligible to apply. A candidate must be able to enter active duty before age 42. Adjustments on the entry age may be made for those with prior military service as long as the total number of years of military service can equal twenty years or more. If you are currently a seminarian, you must first discuss your interest in the military chaplaincy with your formation director and bishop or religious superior; follow his directions.

