

# ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES, USA



*“Serving Those  
Who Serve”*

# PRAYER of the Archdiocese for the Military Services

*Almighty God and Father,  
look with love upon our men and women  
in uniform and protect them  
in their time of need.*

*Give them health and stability and  
allow them to return to their loved ones  
whole and unshaken.*

*Be with their families and sustain them  
in these uncertain times.*

*Grant strength and peace of mind to the  
Veterans who have given their best  
for the country they love.*

*Support them in infirmity and  
in the fragility of old age.*

*Teach us to remember their sacrifices  
and to express our gratitude.*

*Manifest your tender care to those in the  
Military Academies who prepare for  
future service and to those who serve  
our Nation far from home.*

*Teach us to remember the sacrifices  
of those whose efforts contribute  
to ensuring our way of life.*

*Bless and multiply the priests who  
minister to the faithful of the  
Archdiocese for the Military Services.*

*Reward their generosity and keep them faithful.  
Hear us as we present our prayers to You  
through Christ our Lord.*

**ARCHBISHOP TIMOTHY P. BROGLIO**



*Dear Friend,*

**T**hank you for your interest in the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS).

As the cover says, the ministry of the AMS is “*serving those who serve.*” The AMS is here to meet the spiritual needs of Catholics who are serving—or have served—our country at home and abroad.

Senior leadership in the armed services will tell you that their greatest resource is their people. The greatest resource of the AMS is represented by the priests that it endorses for service as chaplains. They are the front-line spiritual envoys who provide access to the sacraments, spiritual counseling, evangelization and catechesis, and other forms of pastoral care to active-duty Catholic servicemen and women, veterans, and their families.

There is no doubt that military service during these changing times poses a real threat to family life. The pressures and the uncertainty affect everyone. The AMS and its priests stand ready to help their faithful to meet these challenges successfully.

I hope this brochure will give you a better idea of what the AMS is, what it does, and how it can better serve those who serve our country.

Thanking you for your prayers and support of this Archdiocese, I invoke abundant divine blessings upon you and your loved ones.

Sincerely in Christ,

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



FATHER ERIC ALBERTSON IN AFGHANISTAN OFFERING PRAYERS FOR FALLEN SOLDIERS.

# Who are we?

**The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS),** was created by Saint John Paul II to provide the Catholic Church's full range of pastoral ministries to Catholics in the United States Armed Forces, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Centers, those in civilian jobs at the service of the federal government outside U.S. borders, and their families.

The AMS is geographically the nation's largest archdiocese, spanning the globe. AMS-endorsed priests go wherever American servicemen and women are stationed, bringing them the sacraments, spiritual support and the Good News of eternal salvation through Jesus Christ.



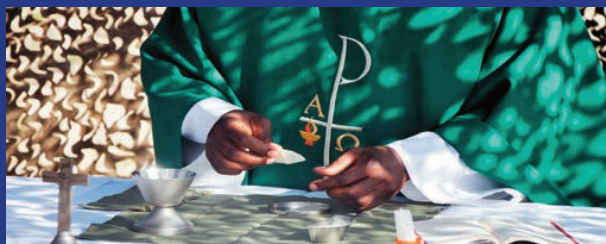


# What We Do

The AMS delivers the same pastoral care and services as does any other Catholic diocese, including:

- Baptism
- Celebration of the Eucharist
- Marriage
- Sacrament of Penance
- Confirmation
- Anointing of the Sick
- Evangelization and Catechesis
- Marriage Cases
- Counseling and Guidance

Unlike a territorial diocese, the AMS has no parishes or parish registries. For this reason, the AMS maintains all records of sacraments celebrated on U.S. Military installations since 1920 at the Edwin Cardinal O'Brien Pastoral Center in Washington, D.C.





MARINES PREP FOR OPERATIONS IN IRAQ.

# By the Numbers

- The AMS is charged with the pastoral care of approximately 1.8 million Catholics worldwide, including U.S. Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen, hospitalized veterans, civilians at the service of the federal government beyond U.S. borders, and their families.
- While approximately 25% of the Military is Catholic, only 6% of Military Chaplains are Catholic; this means that currently there is one priest to serve approximately 1,800 Catholic service members on active-duty, not counting their families.
- Fewer than 500 ordained priests currently carry out the global ministry of the AMS on more than 220 military installations in 29 countries. These include:

Approximately 184 active-duty chaplains who are also commissioned officers in the U.S. military;

Some 270 civilian or retired military priests serving as chaplains on U.S. military installations or in any one of the 153 Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers;

- More than 190 countries host American Catholic civilians serving the U.S. government, but due to limited resources, the AMS cannot serve them adequately.

# Evangelization

The Office of Evangelization provides resources and online support to assist those serving our country and their families to proclaim the Gospel. The mobile life of the military brings new meaning to the call *“to go out and make disciples of all nations.”*

The Office of Evangelization offers Catholics in the military:

- a web site and e-newsletters;
- partnerships with ministry organizations;
- catechist certification and lay leader training;
- participation in national and international pilgrimages.

Active-duty young adults, 18-28, remain a particular focus of the archdiocese. The Office of Evangelization supports priests and chaplains, lay leaders, and ministry coordinators with the best practices to meet the pastoral needs of this generation. Through prayer and active participation in the Catholic Faith Community all Catholics in the military proclaim the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ, the risen, living Lord. Learn more about evangelization resources and links online at **[www.milarch.org/evangelization](http://www.milarch.org/evangelization)**.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2011, MADRID, SPAIN





# Vocations

**I**n recent years, as more priests reach the military retirement age of 62, the number of active-duty chaplains has declined from more than 400 to fewer than 200.

This decline comes in spite of increased demand for their ministry to servicemen and women rotating between deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, the longest wars in U.S. history.

Catholic military personnel need access to priests both on the frontlines and back home as they readjust to life after war.

Currently, Catholics make up roughly 25% of the military, but only 6% of military chaplains are Catholic.

The AMS Office of Vocations is working hard to provide opportunities for vocation awareness and discernment.

Thanks to the cooperation and support of Catholic bishops, religious superiors, increased awareness, visibility in the media, the Catholic population, and discernment opportunities, more young men are now entering seminaries to become priests and chaplains.





CH, 1<sup>ST</sup> LT. PHILIP O'NEILL, USAF ORDAINED MAY 16, 2017

Their numbers are up from only seven in 2008 to more than 47. While that is encouraging, more priest-chaplains are urgently needed.

If you are a serviceman, you may be cut out to be a priest-chaplain.

The military is now the single greatest source of all U.S. Catholic priestly vocations. Around 17% of priests ordained in 2018 served previously in the armed forces or came from military families.

The military, with its emphasis on service, self-discipline, obedience, valor and commitment to a higher calling, is an excellent training ground for the priesthood.

If you think God may be calling you to be a priest-chaplain, call the AMS Vocations Office at (202) 719-3600 or visit **[www.milarch.org/vocations](http://www.milarch.org/vocations)** to learn about our AMS-sponsored Vocation Discernment Retreats and how to become an AMS co-sponsored seminarian military chaplain candidate.



# YOUR DONATION IS APPRECIATED!

The AMS receives no funding from the U.S. Government or U.S. Military and has no parishes to take up weekly collections. The AMS depends primarily on private grants and gifts from individuals to support all programs and services.

Visit [www.milarch.org](http://www.milarch.org) to make an online donation, or complete the following form and return to the address below. Provide your credit card information below, or make a check payable to Archdiocese for the Military Services, and mail to:

Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA  
P.O. Box 4469  
Washington, D.C. 20017-0469

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## DONOR INFORMATION

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CREDIT CARD EXPIRATION

*The AMS is a registered 501c3 non-profit  
organization under the rules of the IRS.*

# The Cause of Father Vincent Capodanno, MM

**The AMS is the Promoter of the Cause for the Canonization of the Servant of God Father Vincent Capodanno.**



**Father Vincent Capodanno, MM  
1929 – 1967**

**Father Capodanno, a Maryknoll priest, was killed September 4, 1967, on a battlefield in Vietnam as he gave physical and spiritual assistance to the dying Marines of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division. He was 38. Father Capodanno was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. In May 2006 the Congregation for the Causes of Saints officially recognized Father Capodanno as a Servant of God, which formally initiated his cause for beatification.**

A stylized, abstract representation of the American flag. It features broad, wavy vertical stripes in deep red and blue, with white stars visible on the right side. The overall effect is a textured, painterly look.

# Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA

P.O. Box 4469  
Washington, DC 20017-0469

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