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 in Christ,

Welcome to your new Archdiocese—the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS).

As a Catholic serving on active or reserve duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, studying in one the nation’s service academies, receiving in-patient treatment at one of the nation’s Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, or working in a civilian job for the federal government beyond U.S. borders, you and your family now come under the pastoral care of the 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 leaders 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 you and your loved ones access to the sacraments, spiritual counseling, evangelization and catechesis, and other forms of pastoral care.

This brochure will give you a better idea of what the AMS is, what it does, and how it can better serve you as you serve our country.

My auxiliary bishops and I look forward to meeting you on our annual pastoral visits to U.S. military installations around the world. Please know that the staff at the Edwin Cardinal O’Brien Pastoral Center in Washington, D.C. stands ready to assist you and your chaplains in living your Catholic faith.

Thanking you for your service, 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
If you are a practicing Catholic and you either [A] serve on active or reserve duty in the U.S. Military or in a federalized unit of the National Guard; or [B] are hospitalized in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center; or [C] hold any kind of civilian job for the federal government beyond U.S. borders; or [D] belong to the immediate family of such a person, then you belong to the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS).

The AMS, established by Saint John Paul II in 1985, is geographically the world’s largest archdiocese, spanning the globe. AMS-endorsed priests and chaplains 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 any other Catholic diocese, including: baptism, celebration of the Eucharist, marriage, sacrament of penance, confirmation, anointing of the sick, evangelization and catechesis, tribunal, 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To request certificates of baptism, profession of faith, confirmation, first communion, or marriage, go to www.milarch.org/sacramentalrecords or call 202.719.3600.

information on annulments or other issues of canon law, email tribunal@milarch.org or call 202.719.3604.

Mass times, confession schedules, or to make an appointment, contact your local chaplain.

For general inquiries: email info@milarch.org or call 202.719.3600.

To report sex abuse by clergy or church personnel, email VAC@milarch.org or call 202.681.5069.
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.
The Office of Evangelization supports priests and chaplains, ministry coordinators, and lay leaders to assist those serving our country and their families to proclaim the Gospel. Active-duty young adults, 18-28, remain a particular focus of the archdiocese. 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.

The Office of Evangelization offers Catholics in the military:

- A web site, an app, and a digital media center;
- Youth and young adult ministry partnerships;
- Catechist certification and leadership training;
- Lay leader resources;
- National and international pilgrimages.

"An authentic faith – which is never comfortable or completely personal – always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it."


Learn more about evangelization resources and links online at www.milarch.org/evangelization.

Visit the AMS Digital Media Center at resources.milarch.org.
Download the AMS app at www.milarch.org/app.
Vocations

The AMS Office of Vocations informs and supports men exploring a priestly vocation. We provide opportunities for vocation awareness and discernment, focusing on the military priest chaplaincy. A vocation is God’s unique call. It requires an informed decision made in prayer and dialogue and is one of life’s most important choices.

Priests care for the needs of Catholic military personnel and their families, providing spiritual and emotional support and guidance in a diocese of 1.8 million that spans the globe. Approximately 25% of our military is Catholic and yet only 6% of military chaplains are Catholic priests. The need could not be greater.

Discerning a priestly vocation requires prayerful dialogue with God and with the Church. If Jesus has placed in your heart an attraction to the priesthood, explore it. Spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Talk to your parish priest or diocesan Vocation Director. Make a vocation retreat.
While the primary focus of the AMS Office of Vocations is encouraging young men to consider the military priest chaplaincy, we also actively encourage and assist vocations to dioceses and religious orders.

To learn about our Vocation Discernment retreats and how to become an AMS Co-Sponsored Seminarian Military Chaplain Candidate go to www.milarch.org/vocations or call us at 202.719.3600.
The AMS endorses priests to serve as chaplains in the nation’s 153 Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers located throughout the Continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Guam.

Each chaplain meets strict Department of Veterans Affairs requirements for specialized training and experience and many are veterans themselves. Some are specialists who work with interdisciplinary teams caring for former servicemen and women suffering the debilitating effects of modern warfare. Others are experts in hospice and palliative care. Members of an eclectic presbyterate and working in a pluralistic environment, all AMS-endorsed VA chaplains provide compassionate care and the comfort of the sacraments to veterans of all ages.

All Catholic Department of Veterans Affairs chaplains participate in a robust continuing education program and many are Board Certified by the National Association of Catholic Chaplains. They serve under the supervision of AMS Auxiliary Bishop, the Archbishop’s Vicar for Veterans Affairs.
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 1st 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.

The Father Vincent Capodanno Guild is the only official organization set up to promote the Cause for Canonization of Father Capodanno.

For more information visit www.CapodannoGuild.org
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

With no military or government financial assistance, the AMS must rely wholly on the generosity of the American Catholic Community to operate its many programs and services.

BE AN ADVOCATE

Follow the AMS on Twitter and Facebook. Sign up to receive AMS news releases and the e-newsletter e-TTENTION. Attend AMS events and invite others to do the same.

MAKE A GIFT AND MAKE AN IMPACT

For a list of ways you can support the AMS, including tax deductible donations: www.milarch.org

For more information about the AMS, including the description of the AMS coat of arms, go to: WWW.MILARCH.ORG

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WASHINGTON, DC 20017-0469
“Serving Those Who Serve”