



ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES, USA

e-TTENTION - February 2023

Archbishop Timothy Broglio Makes Pastoral Visit to U.S. Military Personnel in Gulf



On Feb. 4, His Excellency, the Most Reverend [Timothy P. Broglio](#), J.C.D., Archbishop for the Military Services, USA, and [President](#) of the [United States Conference of Catholic](#)

[Bishops](#) (USCCB), wrapped up a nine-day pastoral visit with U.S. Military members and Catholic clergy stationed on or near the Persian (Arabian) Gulf. During his Jan. 27-Feb. 4 visit, Archbishop Broglio spent five days in Kuwait at [Camp Arifjan](#), [Camp Buehring](#), and [Ali Al Salem Air Base](#). Later he flew to Manama, Bahrain, where he spent four days at [Naval Support Activity \(NSA\) Bahrain](#).

Archbishop Broglio met with priest-chaplains on deployment to the region, including Fathers Sojam Parappilly, CH (CPT), USA, [Camp Arifjan](#); Cecil Cornelius Corneille, CH (MAJ), USA, [Erbil](#), Iraq; Brendan Mbagwu, Ch, Capt, USAF, [Ali Al Salaam Air Base](#); Gregory Louis Leshner, CHC, LT, USN, [Naval Support Activity Bahrain](#); and Keith Wolfe, CHC, LT, USN, [Al Udeid Air Base](#), Qatar. His Excellency celebrated Mass, heard confessions, and administered confirmations for U.S. Military personnel and their families, and he spent time mingling with senior U.S. Military leaders and rank-and-file Catholics alike.

While in Kuwait, Archbishop Broglio called on the [Apostolic Nuncio](#) to Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar, the Most Reverend [Eugene Nugent](#). The two brother bishops are former colleagues in the Holy See's diplomatic service, where Archbishop Broglio once served as [Apostolic Nuncio](#) to the Dominican Republic and Apostolic Delegate to [Puerto Rico](#).

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New Foundation Established to Develop and Manage Perpetual Endowed Support for Archdiocese



SAINT JOHN XXIII
FOUNDATION

**Nourishing the Faith of Catholics in the Armed Forces
and Department of Veteran Affairs Medical Centers**

On Feb. 8, Archbishop Broglio announced creation of the [Saint John XXIII Foundation](#). The Foundation will establish and manage perpetual, endowed [support](#) for the practice of the Catholic faith among members of the U.S. Armed Forces, patients in the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, and civilians working for the federal government beyond U.S. borders.

In making the announcement, Archbishop Broglio said, “[The Saint John XXIII Foundation](#) will work in tandem with the [Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA](#) (AMS), to ensure a long-term, sustainable source of [funding](#) for pastoral care, primarily to Catholics who serve or have served our Nation in uniform. I welcome the addition of this new resource to ensure the provision of pastoral care for Catholics connected to the U.S. Military.”

Archbishop Broglio will serve as [President](#) ex officio of the Foundation, and the Foundation’s Board of Directors has elected Mr. [Joseph Starshak](#) to serve as the first [Chair](#) of the [Board](#). Mr. Starshak, a U.S. Navy veteran who retired from the Navy Reserve at the rank of Captain, is principal of [Starshak Winzenburg & Co.](#), a Chicago investment firm in which he primarily leads the firm’s public finance engagements for governments and nonprofit corporations.

Mr. Starshak announced the appointment of Mr. [John Schlageter](#), Esq., as the Foundation’s first [Executive Director](#). Mr. Schlageter specializes in the operation and growth of charitable organizations. He has particular expertise in the administration and development of religious entities. Mr. Schlageter said the Foundation is an independent entity but will work closely with the AMS [Office of Advancement](#), which will continue to gather donations and major gifts to support the day-to-day operation and ministry of the Archdiocese. He said the Foundation will “work closely with archdiocesan leadership to ensure that the Archdiocese’s ministries flourish now and for future generations.”

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Twenty Men Gather for Discernment Retreat on Possible Vocations as U.S. Military Chaplains



In Menlo Park, CA, over the weekend of Feb. 16-19, twenty men took part in the AMS's annual Spring Discernment Retreat for prospective Catholic priests and U.S. Military [chaplains](#). The AMS [Vocations Office](#) held the retreat at [St. Patrick's Seminary](#) in hopes of relieving a chronic shortage of Catholic priests on active duty. The theme was "The Priesthood and Military Chaplaincy: Discerning a Vocation within a Vocation."

Most of the prospective chaplain candidates already have a military background, but several civilians with no military background also took part in the retreat, which was directed by AMS Vocations Director Father [S. Matthew Gray](#). Archbishop Broglio participated, celebrating Holy Mass and personally engaging with the prospective priest-chaplains.

The gathering is one of two discernment retreats the AMS holds annually in the United States, one on either side of the country. The next will be held from Sept. 28 to Oct. 1, 2023, at [St. Mary's Seminary](#) in Baltimore, MD. Young men interested in participating may contact the AMS Vocations office at vocations@milarch.org or (202) 719-3600. The AMS receives no funding from the military or the government and gratefully welcomes donations to fund its vocations program and other pastoral services for those who serve at www.milarch.org/donate.

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Rite of Election Celebrated for Twelve U.S. Military-Affiliated Adults



On Feb. 26, twelve aspiring Catholics affiliated with the United States Military, all based in greater Washington, DC, celebrated the [Rite of Election](#) in the main chapel of the Edwin Cardinal O'Brien Pastoral Center. Archbishop Broglio presided at the 3:00 p.m. celebration.

The Rite of Election is the penultimate milestone in a months-long process of catechetical instruction, prayer and spiritual practice, and liturgies for unbaptized adults committed to becoming Catholics. The rite, ordinarily held on the first Sunday of Lent, is the third of four rituals observed as part of the [Order of Christian Initiation for Adults](#) (OCIA). After completing the Rite of Election, the catechumens are called "the elect" while undertaking, throughout the remainder of Lent, a period of purification and enlightenment—the final, intense preparation for the reception at [Easter](#) of the [Sacraments of Christian Initiation](#)—[baptism](#), [confirmation](#), and [Holy Communion](#).

Like other Catholic archdioceses and dioceses, the AMS celebrates the OCIA every year for adults committed to receiving Catholic baptism. The AMS process is unique, however, in that the Archdiocese's mainly military population is spread all over the world—wherever U.S. Military personnel happen to be at any moment. Since it is practically

impossible for all of the AMS's [catechumens](#) based worldwide to gather at one time in Washington to celebrate the Rite of Election with Archbishop Broglio, those serving outside the National Capital Region generally celebrate the rite with the bishops in the dioceses where they happen to be located.

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CATHOLIC
MILITARY LIFE

Catholic Author Elizabeth A. Tomlin, Esq., Explores Lives of Biblical Women in New Bible Edition



Catholic women seeking to deepen their faith in Christ now have access to [Living the Word Catholic Women's Bible](#), published by [Ave Maria Press](#). Catholic author and U.S. Army wife [Elizabeth A. Tomlin](#), Esq., is among writers contributing reflections to the new publication. In the Feb. 10 [edition](#) of [Catholic Military Life](#), the only official podcast of the AMS, Ms. Tomlin explores the example of Priscilla and other biblical women whose witness is of particular relevance to their sisters in the faith. Listen to [podcast](#).

Deacon Joe Donohoe, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), Pursues Ministry of Outreach to Disenfranchised Veterans



In the Archdiocese of Denver, Catholic Deacon and retired U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Joe Donohoe has set out to bring disenfranchised Catholic veterans back into the flock.

In the Feb. 24 [edition](#) of [Catholic Military Life](#), Lt. Col. Donohoe, the nephew of a World War Two era U.S. Navy chaplain, shares how he pursues this special ministry. Listen to [podcast](#).

CHAPLAIN SPOTLIGHT

Feb. 3 Marks 80th Anniversary of the Four Chaplains' Sacrifice



Feb. 3 marked the 80th anniversary of the death of the [four chaplains](#) aboard the U.S. Army transport ship [U.S.A.T. Dorchester](#). Father [John P. Washington](#), along with Methodist Reverend [George L. Fox](#), Jewish Rabbi [Alexander D. Goode](#), and Dutch Reformed Reverend [Clark V. Poling](#), all went down with the ship, linked arm-in-arm in prayer, after it was torpedoed by a German submarine off the coast of Newfoundland in World War Two. All had given up their life jackets to fellow soldiers waiting in line to escape the sinking ship, sacrificing their own lives to save others, in keeping with the Gospel. Watch [video](#).

Feb. 13 Marks 94th Birthday of Vietnam War Hero and Servant of

God Father Vincent R. Capodanno



Feb. 13 marked the birthday of Vietnam War hero and Servant of God Father [Vincent R. Capodanno](#), MM. He would have been 94.

Father Capodanno died of multiple gunshots at the age of 38 on Sept. 4, 1967, as he scrambled to aid outnumbered U.S. Marines under ambush in Vietnam's Quế Sơn Valley while they carried out "Operation Swift" against the North Vietnamese Army. For his valor, he was

posthumously awarded the [Medal of Honor](#), the nation's highest military decoration.

The Holy's See's [Dicastery for the Causes of Saints](#) is in the process of considering Father Capodanno's Cause for Canonization. Please pray for the repose of his soul and the success of his Cause.

Birth of U.S. Military Chaplaincy Remembered on President's Day



On Feb. 20, the Nation observed President's Day. This painting, "[The Chaplain at Valley Forge](#)" by William A. Smith, calls to mind how General George Washington, before he became our first president, saw to it the Continental Army had [chaplains](#) for the spiritual and moral leadership of his soldiers, thus establishing the long tradition of U.S. Military [chaplaincy](#) that predates even the ratification of the U.S. Constitution.

History records our first commander-in-chief was a man of deep religious faith. Before battle, he would pray the Lord of Hosts would lead the Army to victory if that be God's will; if not, he begged the Lord to stand neutral and let "flesh and blood" decide the outcome.

COMING EVENTS
Mark the Calendar

[Chrism Mass](#)

March 28, 2023

6:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Saving Time

Crypt Church

[Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception](#)

400 Michigan Avenue NE

Washington, DC 20017

Archbishop Broglio will bless and consecrate oils for sacramental use over the coming year

Catholic U.S. Military chaplains will renew their ministerial commitment

For more information, go [here](#)

[Warriors to Lourdes](#)

May 9-15, 2023

Lourdes, France

Sponsored by the [Knights of Columbus](#) and the [AMS](#)

Archbishop Broglio will accompany pilgrims

[29th Annual Memorial Mass](#)

May 21, 2023

4:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Saving Time

Upper Church

[Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception](#)

400 Michigan Avenue NE

Washington, DC 20017

Archbishop Broglio will be the principal celebrant and homilist

[Memorial Mass for Father Vincent R. Capodanno, MM](#)

Sept. 5, 2023

6:30 p.m. Daylight Saving Time

[Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception](#)

400 Michigan Avenue NE

Washington, DC 20017

Archbishop Broglio will be the principal celebrant and homilist

[Annual Pilgrimage for the Sea Services](#)

3:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Savings Time

Sunday, October 1, 2023

[The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton](#)

339 South Seton Avenue

Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Auxiliary Bishop [Joseph L. Coffey](#) will be the principal celebrant and homilist

Complimentary dinner afterward

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