

ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES, USA

e-TTENTION - January 2023

Archbishop Timothy Broglio Pays Christmas Season Visit to War-Weary Ukraine



His Excellency, the Most Reverend <u>Timothy P. Broglio</u>, J.C.D., Archbishop for the Military Services, USA, and President of the <u>United States Conference of Catholic</u>

<u>Bishops</u> (USCCB), <u>visited</u> war-weary <u>Ukraine</u> Dec. 27-31, 2022. Archbishop Broglio went to <u>assure</u> the embattled Ukrainians the Catholic Church in the United States continues to support them in their resistance to the nearly year-old Russian <u>invasion</u> at a time of intensified Russian missile <u>attacks</u>.

Catholic News Service (CNS) distributed the above photo by Oleksandr Savransky. Jesuit Father Andriy Zelinskyy, coordinator of military chaplains for the Ukrainian Catholic Church, is seen showing a camouflage mug to Archbishop Broglio during their meeting in Kyiv on Dec. 29.

In his four-day visit to Lviv and Kyiv, Archbishop Broglio met with his brother bishops, especially His Beatitude Archbishop <u>Sviatoslav Shevchuk</u> (right in photo) and Archbishop <u>Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki</u>, an old friend from the time that both served in the <u>Secretariat of State</u>. Archbishop Broglio also met with Ukrainian military chaplains. Participating in the <u>funeral</u> of three Ukrainian soldiers killed during the war, he told their families, "On behalf of all Catholics in the United States of America, I extend my sincere condolences. We must continue to live in hope...." Military funerals are an almost everyday experience for the people of the Garrison church.

Archbishop Broglio encouraged the Ukrainians to stand firm. He expressed solidarity with their cause of freedom and determination to remain independent of outside aggression. "You may not see this in Ukraine," His Excellency told Ukrainian officials, "but today Ukrainians bring great hope to the world! Your nation has united and stood up to this unjust invasion. In your resistance, we see hope for the future."

Watch videos here and here.

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Military Catholics at First In-Person SEEK Faith Forum in Two Years Remember Pope Benedict XVI



For the first time in two years organizers staged the annual <u>SEEK</u> Catholic faith conference in person Jan. 2-6, 2023, in St. Louis, MO. Some of the nation's best and brightest future military leaders were among more than 17,000 people from throughout the United States and other countries, including Ireland, Austria, Germany, and Mexico, to participate in "<u>SEEK23: You Are Called</u>," hosted by Denverbased <u>FOCUS</u> (Fellowship of Catholic University Students). FOCUS, a 25-year-old religious organization, holds SEEK each year in an ongoing mission to help Catholic college students and young adults explore the Gospel and answer God's call in their lives through interpersonal sharing, but the 2021 and 2022 gatherings were held online due to the <u>COVID-19</u> pandemic.

Among U.S. Military members taking part in the conference were 49 from the <u>Army</u>, three from the <u>Marine Corps</u>, 25 from the <u>Navy</u>, and 28 from the <u>Air Force</u>. They came to the "Rome of the West" from installations as far and wide as <u>Ramstein Air Base</u> in Germany, <u>Fort Bragg</u> in North Carolina, <u>Fort Leonard Wood</u> in Missouri, <u>Fort Campbell</u> in Kentucky, the <u>United States Military Academy at West Point</u>, NY, <u>Marine Corps Base Quantico</u> in Virginia, the <u>U.S. Naval Academy</u> in Annapolis, MD, <u>Cannon Air Force Base</u> in New Mexico, and the <u>U.S. Air Force Academy</u> in Colorado Springs, CO.

SEEK23 offered several tributes to the late <u>Pope Benedict XVI</u>, who died on Dec. 31. They included an all-week memorial at the Adoration Chapel and a Mass for the Dead on Thursday, Jan. 5. Archbishop Broglio was the principal celebrant and homilist (pictured). He preached, "the passing of Pope Benedict is a reminder of God's divine love for us and the opportunity to respond to the Lord," and he urged attendees not to leave SEEK23 "without recognizing the immense love of God for you and the amazing opportunities to witness to His name in our daily lives."

AMS Auxiliary Bishops Join Archbishop Broglio for Retreat and Rare Group Photo



Archbishop Broglio and his <u>auxiliary bishops</u> spend most of their time traveling throughout this <u>global Archdiocese</u>, shuffling between distant locations to shepherd their flock. Seldom is the occasion to gather in one place at the same time.

Mid-January was the exception. The AMS bishops gathered for a retreat of prelates throughout Regions IV and XIV of the U.S. Catholic Church. They met at the <u>Bethany Retreat Center</u> in Lutz, FL. The Jan. 12 photo shows them in the Center's <u>St. James Chapel</u> right after concelebrating Mass with the <u>apostolic nuncio</u> to the United States, Archbishop <u>Christophe Pierre</u> (not pictured).

Pictured from left to right: Bishop <u>Joseph L. Coffey</u>, Episcopal Vicar for Veterans Affairs; Bishop <u>Richard B. Higgins</u>, retired Auxiliary Bishop; Archbishop Broglio; Bishop <u>Neal J. Buckon</u>, Episcopal Vicar for the Western U.S.; Bishop <u>F. Richard Spencer</u>, Episcopal Vicar for the Eastern U.S.; and Bishop <u>William (Bill) Muhm</u>, Episcopal Vicar for Military Installations in Europe and Asia.

U.S. Military Catholics March for Life in First Parade Since Roe v. Wade Overturned



On Friday afternoon, Jan. 20, dozens of Catholic U.S. Military personnel and members of the AMS walked in the 50th annual <u>March for Life</u> along the National Mall. It was the first March for Life since the U.S. Supreme Court issued its decision in <u>Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization</u> on June 24, 2022, overruling <u>Roe v.</u>

<u>Wade</u> (1973), which had declared a constitutional right to abortion. The AMS delegation included cadets from the <u>U.S. Military Academy</u> at West Point, N.Y., and midshipmen from the <u>U.S. Naval Academy</u> in Annapolis, MD.

Just before leading the AMS delegation to the National Mall for the March, Archbishop Broglio, in his homily at the daily noon Mass in the <u>main chapel</u> of the <u>Edwin Cardinal O'Brien Pastoral Center</u> in Northeast Washington, told marchers their demonstration is primarily a testimony to the defense of the dignity of the human person. It is authentically pro-life:

"Today's prayer and the March are all about the dignity of the human person from conception to natural death. We reverence and defend life in the womb to the tomb because we believe that such respect flows from the innate dignity of the human person. By the same token we strive to assist the poor, to ease the tensions provoked by racism, to care for the migrant, to support Ukraine against unjust aggression, and to foster human development here in our country and abroad. All of those activities stem from the fact that Almighty God created the human person in His image and likeness.... Our activities today are not so much against as they are for, because we all want to share life in abundance with the Lord."

The peaceful demonstration in favor of the dignity of the human person from conception to natural death was joined by tens of thousands along the one-mile route. The theme of March for Life 2023 was "Next Steps: Marching in a Post-Roe America." According to organizers, the theme "emphasizes the need in the absence of Roe v. Wade for pro-life advocates to continue boldly marching in defense of the unborn – both on the state and federal level – and advocating for a minimum federal standard to protect innocent life against radical pro-abortion legislation."

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CATHOLIC MILITARY LIFE

Podcasts

Madeline Stockman on Serving as a

Missionary Discipleship Trainer for Fellow Military Catholics



In response to Pope Francis's dream of a "missionary impulse capable of transforming everything," the <u>AMS</u> now has <u>Missionary Discipleship Trainers</u> who guide fellow military Catholics in ways to evangelize and "<u>reach more</u>" disciples through participation in a movement organized by <u>Evangelical Catholic</u> of Madison, WI. In the Jan. 27 <u>edition</u> of <u>Catholic Military Life</u>,

the only official podcast of the AMS, Trainer Madeline Stockman of <u>Fort Bragg</u>, NC, shares how she ignites the missionary impulse in a twelve-week course of virtual sessions with prospective missionaries. <u>Listen</u>.

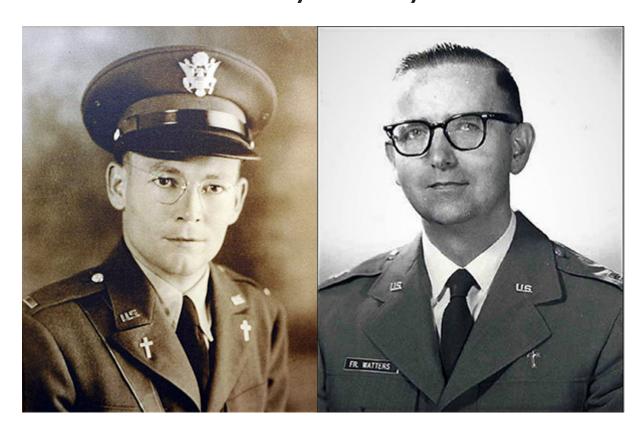
Monsignor Michael Butler Steps in to Fill Chaplain Void at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling



The growing <u>shortage</u> of Catholic U.S. Military chaplains has left installations such as <u>Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling</u> (JBAB) in Washington, DC, without an active-duty priest. Recently, Monsignor <u>Michael Butler</u>, Ch Col USAF (Ret.), a priest of the <u>Archdiocese of St. Louis</u>, stepped in at the age of 61 to serve full-time as a civil service federal employee at JBAB, providing pastoral care in the absence of a permanent chaplain. In the Jan 25 <u>edition</u> of <u>Catholic Military</u>

CHAPLAIN SPOTLIGHT

Two Late Priest-Chaplain Heroes from Wars of Old Celebrate January Birthdays



January marked birthdays for two of the nation's top Catholic military chaplain heroespriests who proved their mettle in the line of fire, armed only with the Holy Spirit.

U.S. Army Chaplain Father <u>Joseph Verbis Lafleur</u>, CH (LT), USA, of Ville Platte, LA (left), gave up his life in World War II off the coast of the Philippines helping fellow sailors escape a torpedoed Japanese prisoner-of-war ship. On Jan. 24, Father Lafleur would have turned 111 years old.

U.S. Army Chaplain Father <u>Charles Watters</u>, CH (MAJ), USA, sacrificed himself in the Vietnam War while anointing a dying fellow soldier when a bomb blast ended his life. On Jan. 17,

"Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

-John 15:13

COMING EVENTS Mark the Calendar

Spring Discernment Retreat for Prospective Catholic U.S. Military Chaplains

Feb. 16-19, 2023

St. Patrick's Seminary

Menlo Park, CA

For more information, contact vocations@milarch.org
Archbishop Broglio will participate

AMS Rite of Election

Feb. 26, 2023

Edwin Cardinal O'Brien Pastoral Center

Washington, DC

Archbishop Broglio will celebrate the Rite of Election of Catechumens

Catechist Lenten Retreat

March 9, 2023

6:00 to 7:30 a.m. Eastern Standard Time

2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time

Virtual

For more information contact FaithFormation@milarch.org.

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

The AMS was established as an independent archdiocese by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1985 as the only Catholic jurisdiction responsible for endorsing and granting faculties for priests to serve as chaplains in the U.S. military and VA Medical Centers. AMS-endorsed priests serve at more than 220 U.S. military installations in 29 countries, making the AMS the nation's only global archdiocese. AMS-endorsed chaplains also serve at 153 VA Medical Centers throughout the U.S. The AMS service population also includes American Catholic civilians working for the federal government in 134 countries, but currently, due to limited resources, the AMS cannot adequately serve this population. Worldwide, an estimated 1.8 million Catholics depend on the AMS to meet their spiritual and sacramental needs. For more information on the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, visit milarch.org, the only official website for Catholics in the U.S. Military. For information on the Cause of Father Vincent R. Capodanno, M.M., visit capodannoguild.org.





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