



Serving those who Serve

Dear Father,

Allow me to express my profound gratitude to you and your parish community for participating in the upcoming National Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS). As you know, the collection is approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to be taken every three years, to both increase awareness and support of the mission, *“Serving Those Who Serve.”*

The ministries offered by the AMS benefit those who serve in all six branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, Veterans, and their families. It is the mission of this Archdiocese that they be able to seek sacramental preparation for baptism, confirmation, first Communion, penance, and marriage; to benefit from consultation with a priest, and to receive the sacrament of penance as they defend our rights of freedom and speech, and face constant transition and uncertainty.

In addition, the AMS Co-Sponsored Seminararian Program is the only vocations program in the United States that provides priests to serve as military chaplains - and also to serve in parishes and dioceses across the country that struggle with their own critical shortage of ministers. After a seminarian receives approval from his bishop or religious superior to participate, education and other formation costs are shared between the AMS and the seminarian's home diocese or religious order. Once the priest is ordained, he first serves for three years in his home diocese or community before being released for full-time military service for at least five years. When the priest separates from the military, he then returns to his diocese or community.

Please help me continue to provide for those entrusted to my pastoral care – *including those who originate from your own parish or diocese* - by including one or more bulletin announcements in your weekly publication, making collection envelopes readily available, and perhaps consider having an active-duty or retired military member of your parish offer a witness to having been able to receive the sacraments or counsel from an AMS endorsed priest while they served on active-duty.

Please pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Know that your intentions will be remembered at the altar.

With my best wishes for your ministry and the expression of my gratitude, I am

Fraternally in Christ,



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

Triennial National Collection
for the **ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE
MILITARY SERVICES, USA**