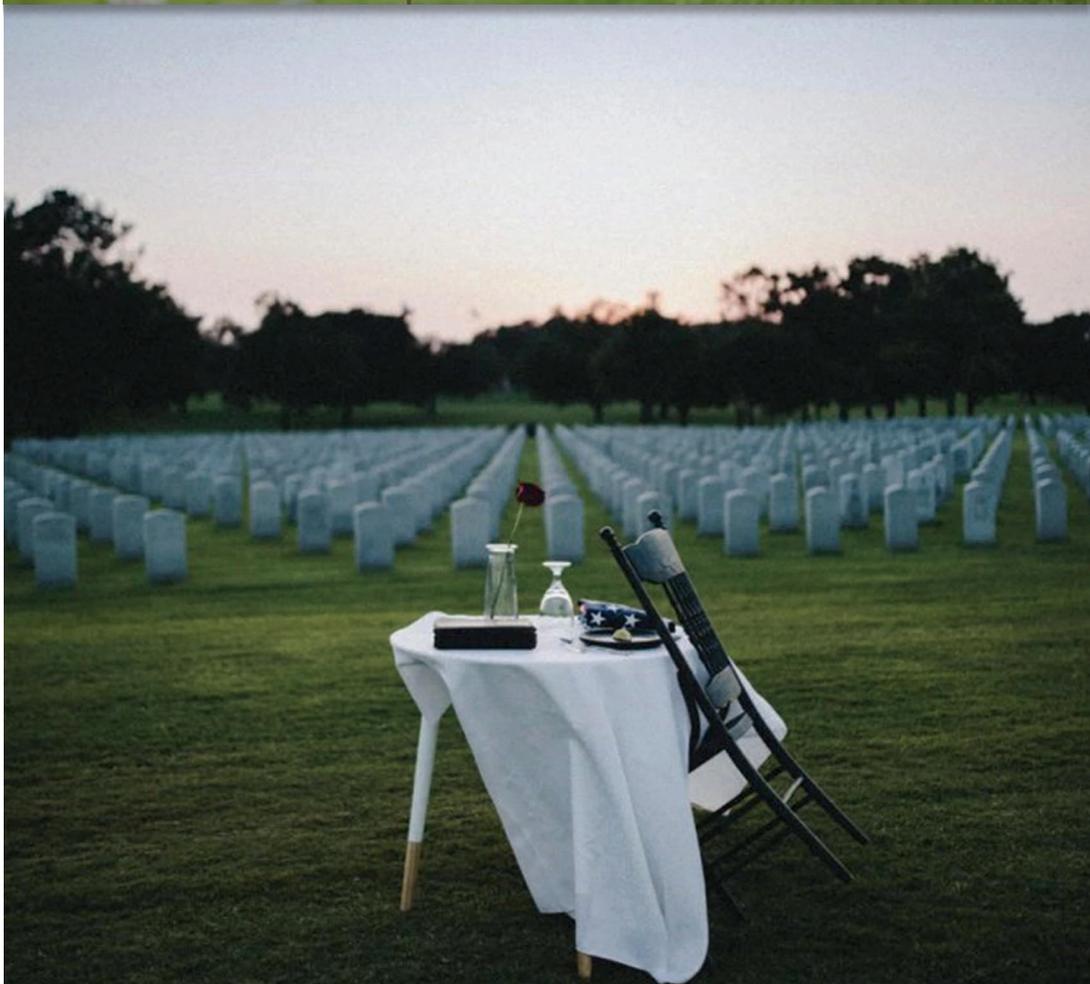


# SALUTE

SUMMER 2022

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES, USA



**THIS IS THE *ULTIMATE SERVICE***

*Dear Friends,*

These lines are being written as the LXII International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes draws to a close. The gathering of military from some forty nations from around the world has been a time of grace. Many prayers for world peace were said, and many experienced the healing that occurs in the embrace of our heavenly Mother.

A special gift was the participation of a small delegation from Ukraine — made possible by the Knights of Columbus. The bishop, priests, and soldiers were warmly welcomed by all. You will be able to read more about the pilgrimage on the pages of this issue of *Salute*.



Now that many pandemic restrictions have been lifted, I am sure that everyone is looking forward to the easier days of summer. It usually represents a time to relax, travel, and enjoy a change of pace.

For the men and women in uniform and their families, it is usually the time when a permanent change of station takes effect. The tasks of packing, moving, and adjusting to a new home fill these weeks for many. In the Archdiocese, it is a time for planning and also assuring that everything is in place for a new pastoral year.

These pages will allow you to hear about the pilgrimage to Lourdes, the spring ordinations of the co-sponsored seminarians, the activities of my Auxiliary Bishops and my own, and some other happenings in the AMS.

Ever grateful for your support and your prayers, I hope that you will have a restful summer that offers time for renewal and that you will enjoy this issue of *Salute*.

Sincerely in Christ,

Handwritten signature of Timothy P. Broglio in black ink.

The Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, *Archbishop*



# SALUTE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE  
ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE  
MILITARY SERVICES, USA  
VOLUME 16 NUMBER 2 SUMMER 2022

## TABLE of CONTENTS



- 4** Time Flies, but Grace Abounds  
*Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio*
- 10** Address Change Notification (song)  
*Bishop F. Richard Spencer*
- 14** Spring Travels and Days of Recollection  
for Priests  
*Bishop Bill Muhm*
- 18** Serving Those Who Serve  
*Bishop Joseph Coffey*
- 24** Little Sister of the Poor who Died at the  
Age of 102 was a Heroine of D-Day  
*Bérengère de Portzamparc*
- 30** 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Mass  
*Taylor Henry*
- 34** Welcome to Lourdes for the 62<sup>nd</sup>  
International Military Pilgrimage  
*Taylor Henry*
- 44** The Harvest Continues  
*Meet Alexander (A.J.) Houston*
- 48** Vacation Bible Study (VBS)  
*José Amaya*
- 50** To the Ends of the Earth  
*Casey Lee*

**CORRECTION: PAGE 6 SPRING SALUTE - CAPTION SHOULD HAVE READ "THE CONFIRMATION WAS AT NAVAL STATION BANGOR-KITSAP IN WASHINGTON STATE"**

*The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, publishes SALUTE for the nation's Bishops, active and retired military chaplains, and financial supporters of the Archdiocese.*

#### ADDRESS CHANGES AND NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Please send title, name, address and phone number to: [support@milarch.org](mailto:support@milarch.org)  
call 202.719.3600 or write: *Advancement Office, Archdiocese for the Military Services, P.O. Box 4469, Washington, D.C., USA 20017-0469*  
Feedback, letters to the editor: [editor@milarch.org](mailto:editor@milarch.org) | Website: [www.milarch.org](http://www.milarch.org)



Summer 2022

| SALUTE 3



**ARCHBISHOP TIMOTHY P. BROGLIO, BLESSING THE SACRED OILS DURING THE ANNUAL CHRISM MASS, 5 APRIL 2022, IN THE CRYPT CHURCH AT THE BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.**

# TIME FLIES, BUT GRACE ABOUNDS

BY ARCHBISHOP TIMOTHY P. BROGLIO

So many opportunities and so many occasions of grace have filled the last few months that I am at a loss as to where to begin. Consequently, I will begin at the end of the period with the days at Our Lady's Shrine in Lourdes.

The Knights of Columbus really outdid themselves with participation in the annual International Military Pilgrimage (PMI). The hiatus of three years

provoked by the pandemic made everyone eager to ensure a successful visit to the "Heart of the Church," as the Marian Shrine at Lourdes, France has so often been called.

However, the Knights ensured the presence of three countries. Obviously, the participation of wounded warriors, clergy, and Knights from the United States has become an annual gift, but this year,

the fraternal organization brought the 19 participants from Ukraine led by their bishop charged with the pastoral care of Catholics in the military. These representatives touched the hearts of everyone at Lourdes and we prayed for lasting peace in that war-torn country.

Desiring to express the gratitude of the Catholic Church in Ukraine, the Bishop presented me with a hand-painted image of the Holy Family. I was deeply moved by his kindness. Luckily, the ceramic made it back to Washington in one piece.

Also touching was the presence of my Canadian counterpart and a permanent deacon in the Canadian Air Force. U.S. Marines carried the Canadian flag in the official moments of the PMI so that our neighbor to the north was represented. It was deeply moving to see this gesture of international solidarity—one more reminder, if one were necessary, of the motivation to honor the religious freedom of all.

Of course, all of the moments of this international gathering were occasions to celebrate the Catholic faith, honor those who have served and are serving, as well as pray for world peace. Poignant was the simple ceremony of blessing and lighting a candle to remember the Americans who died as the troops pulled out of Afghanistan last year.

We pray for their eternal rest and the consolation of those left behind.

Last March, I made a very quick visit to Parris Island and the U.S. Marines who begin their training there. One young recruit talked about looking forward to becoming 18 and joining the Knights of Columbus. The visit was a good occasion to celebrate Mass for the recruits and confirm another Marine at the Mass for the permanent party. The super-active Father Adam MacMillan (Winona-Rochester) is doing well there.

Saturday 19 March allowed me to celebrate the 21st anniversary of my episcopal ordination with two groups of faithful. First, the newly confirmed and their teachers came from Carlisle Barracks for a retreat. Together we gathered at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for Mass and a brief visit.

That evening, the Catholic community at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall gathered to dedicate their community to St. Joseph. After Mass in the chapel, we gathered for a banquet at the Officers' Club. They gave me a lovely bronze image to recall Christ in the boat with the Apostles, fishers of men! The Army Chief of Chaplains and his Deputy joined us for the events. Celebrating

*continued on next page*

an anniversary with a portion of the flock entrusted to my pastoral care was a special gift!

I was back at the same chapel less than a week later when in communion with bishops throughout the world and the Bishop of Rome, I led the faithful at noon in the solemn consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Hear, O Lord, our cries for world peace!

Speaking of anniversaries, the St. Joseph's Seminary at Dunwoodie in Yonkers, New York, celebrated 125 years by honoring Edwin Cardinal O'Brien with their award. It coincided with the Silver Jubilee of his ordination as a bishop. The trip to New York was quick, but I was delighted to honor this faithful servant who has given so much to the Church and to our Archdiocese.

The very next week brought me back to Joint Base Charleston in South Carolina. When I last visited, there were still two bases: Navy and Air Force. Father Gildardo Garcia was an excellent host and the community seemed happy to see their chief Shepherd once again.

From there, it was off to San Francisco for the spring discernment retreat where 19 men gathered to

pray and seek guidance about a possible future ministry as military chaplains. The young men were impressive and I was happy to join them in prayer and conversation.

Father Matthew Pawlikowski, who gave a presentation during the retreat, and I boarded a red-eye on Saturday night for a flight to Newark and from there to West Point for confirmation. It was one of many confirmations in the past weeks, but the mixture of eighth-graders and cadets always makes confirmations at the academies unique.

I also celebrated the Sunday evening Mass where the scrutinies were held for those preparing for the Easter sacraments (adult baptism, confirmation, and first Holy Communion).

The pace continued because the Chrism Mass in the crypt church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception was the next day (5 April). Consecrating the Chrism and blessing the oils for sacramental use around the world is always a significant moment of prayer.

The following day offered a brand new experience. Father Robert Monagle (Boston) drove me

to the Baltimore Airport and assured the folks at AMC (military air) that indeed I could fly with them to Greenland.

The visit to the Space Force Base at Thule was indeed unique. The small Catholic community up there was delighted to receive their chief Shepherd (especially because Father Khoi Tran from Vandenberg SFB came with Father Monagle and me and stayed for Holy Week). The twenty-four-hour visit planned for me was intense but served to introduce me to the mission, experience a bit of life at the base in the snow, and meet the Catholic community.

Visiting the different units opened my eyes to the mission of the base and gave me a chance to talk to those who serve in that remote location. Of course, there were some shared meals, bingo, sightings of arctic foxes, and an office call

*continued on next page*



**TOP PHOTO: CHAPLAIN CLIFTON D. HANSON (RIGHT REAR, POINTING) WITH ARCHBISHOP TIMOTHY P. BROGLIO (RIGHT FRONT) IN THE CONTROL TOWER THULE AIR BASE.**

**CENTER PHOTO: 7 APRIL 2022 ARCHBISHOP TIMOTHY P. BROGLIO CONFIRMING AT THULE AB CHAPEL.**

**BOTTOM PHOTO: ARCHBISHOP TIMOTHY P. BROGLIO (LEFT) WITH THE SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON COMMANDER, MAJ BRANDON BURDEN (RIGHT), DURING A TOUR OF THE THULE TRAINING FACILITY.**

with the Base Commander, Col Heather McGee, also a Catholic. I confirmed an Airman who had completed her preparation remotely. That was probably the most northern confirmation celebrated this year!

The ever-present COVID test was negative—otherwise, the visit would have been longer than 24

hours! Is it necessary to add that I was ready to go to sleep on Thursday night?

Early Friday morning, Father Monagle and I checked in for the return flight and had breakfast with Col McGee and the Deputy Wing Commander, Lt Col Douglas Hickey. Of course, returning Friday afternoon before Holy Week made preparations for that singular week of the year more intense than usual. However, I am very grateful to all who made this pastoral visit possible.

As usual, my Triduum was divided between West Point and Annapolis, and I also celebrated the Spanish Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, in Washington, D.C. Those solemn days of prayer that recall the most important moments of salvation history were a great preparation for the first in-person



---

**TOP PHOTO: ARCHBISHOP TIMOTHY P. BROGLIO WITH LT. COL CHRISTOPHER HILL, 12TH SPACE WARNING SQUADRON COMMANDER.**

**BOTTOM PHOTO: CH, COL ROBERT MONAGLE, (LEFT), ARCHBISHOP TIMOTHY P. BROGLIO (CENTER) AND CH, CAPT KHOI TRAN (RIGHT) IN FRONT OF THE FJORD JUST OUTSIDE OF THE 12TH SPACE WARNING SQUADRON'S BUILDING.**

---

Forum of the Military Council of Catholic Women Worldwide since 2018.

The days in Tampa, Florida from 21 to 24 April were electric. Over one hundred participants prayed, interacted, listened to enlightening presentations, and participated in an auction that raised quite a sum of money for the AMS Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program. The last-mentioned event provoked spirited bidding for unusual objects—including a can of spam with my signature!

On Sunday morning the new officers were installed and heartfelt thanks were offered to those who finished their terms, led by Kim Miller who spent four years at the helm. Often I am asked what is the best part of ministering at the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA? After 14 years my response is the same: the people!

Funerals, confirmations, and quick visits to the Coast Guard Academy and Fort Buchanan in Puerto Rico filled the days leading up to the PMI. The days fly by, but the opportunities to experience divine grace are limitless. †



---

**ARCHBISHOP TIMOTHY P. BROGLIO DURING MASS AT THULE AIR BASE CHAPEL.**

---

# ADDRESS CHANGE NOTIFICATION

*(song)*

BY BISHOP F. RICHARD SPENCER





**O**n many occasions during our military careers and especially during PCS seasons, many of us within the Department of Defense (DOD) community have completed and submitted DD Form 2656, a change of address notification form. I estimate that I have submitted this form at least 27 times during my military career.

In the summer of 2021, the artist group SOUTHBOUND released a new song titled “ADDRESS CHANGE NOTIFICATION.” Today this song is the most popular and most played in the military confinement facilities of Fort Leavenworth (the Joint Regional Confinement Facility (JRCF) and also in the United States Disciplinary Barracks (USDB), Kansas. Even before and after the Masses that I recently celebrated at these locations, I could hear this song being played in the hallways as a source of hope, inspiration, and changes to come for the “insiders.”

During the first week of May 2022, I was privileged to celebrate three confirmation Masses at Leavenworth, all in one day. A Mass at the JRCF, one at the USDB, and another at the Garrison Chapel, all located on Fort Leavenworth military facilities.

Lay catechists – either externs or “insiders” themselves – prepared the confirmandi among the “insiders”. Two of the “insiders” were educated in Catholic seminaries. One of the confirmandi was a former Army Protestant chaplain who had been received into the Catholic church during my visit. All the Masses were well prepared with impressive musical support and with due respect for the liturgical norms. As a gift from the “insiders” to the AMS, the “insiders” crafted a wooden crozier with the AMS Coat of Arms in the center (pictured on page 10). You can also see in the picture Father Jason Hesselning, Bishop Spencer, and Deacon Robert Zbvlut.

*continued on next page*

---

**L-R: FATHER JASON HESSELING, BISHOP F. RICHARD SPENCER HOLDING THE HAND CRAFTED CROZIER, AND DEACON ROBERT ZBVLUT.**

---



**AFTER MASS, BISHOP SPENCER (CENTER LEFT) AND DEACON TOM GOTSCHOLL (CENTER RIGHT) JOINED BY THE SCOUTS FOR A MEMORIAL MOMENT.**

In addition to all of the wonderful confirmation Masses that filled my calendar in May was another mega-event in which I participated, the annual Scouting Religious Awards Mass and Ceremony. Recently, the “Scouting” programs have improved and are healthy and diverse, including the Pope Pius XII Scout Medals, the American Heritage Girl Scouts, the Pillars of Faith Girl Scout Awards, and the Ad Altare Dei medals. These award programs aim to help Catholic youth develop a fully Christian way of life. In addition, the seven sacraments are highlighted in these training programs for the Catholic scouts on many of our military bases and chapels.



---

**BISHOP SPENCER (CENTER LEFT) AND MONSIGNOR GERRY MCMANUS (CENTER RIGHT) WITH THE ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE CATHOLIC CHAPEL VOLUNTEERS.**

---

This past spring season saw many more unique pastoral activities as we honored at several of our chapels THE VOLUNTEERS who make, shape, and enliven signs of our Christian missionary zeal. Let me cite the examples at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota, under the pastoral leadership of Monsignor Gerry McManus, and at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota, under the pastoral leadership of Father Ryan Boyle, two special events that allowed us to say THANKS publically to our many volunteers. ☩



# SPRING TRAVELS AND DAYS OF RECOLLECTION FOR PRIESTS

BY BISHOP BILL MUHM

***D**uring Lent and Easter Season 2022, I visited Stuttgart for Ash Wednesday and Ansbach for the First Sunday of Lent and a Lenten day of recollection for priests (more about that below). After that, I spent the rest of Lent visiting and confirming in Korea and Japan. I celebrated Easter Triduum liturgies at SHAPE, Belgium and Ramstein, Germany; then I visited and confirmed as needed at Grafenwoehr (including an Easter day of recollection for priests), Spangdahlem, Baumholder, Kaiserslautern, Garmisch, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Wiesbaden, Stuttgart, and Ramstein, Germany; Bemowo Piskie Training Area (BPTA), Powidz, and Poznan, Poland; Pabrade Training Area, Lithuania; Rota and Moron, Spain; Brunssum, Netherlands; and Brussels, Belgium.*

---

**FATHER BRIAN TAYLOR SPEAKS TO AMS PRIESTS GATHERED IN ROSE BARRACKS CHAPEL IN VILSECK, GERMANY ON 24 APRIL 2022.**

---

As AMS Vicar for Europe and Asia before 2019, Bishop Spencer organized periodic recollection days for priest chaplains and contract priests. Archbishop Broglio encouraged me to continue organizing these days for priests.

Since 2019, I have organized six of these days in Germany, two in Japan, and two in Korea. Each day of recollection has included dinner the evening before, Morning Prayer in

common, two spiritual conferences, Mass, Eucharistic Adoration with an opportunity for confession, and breakfast and lunch provided by either Catholic Women of the Chapel or Knights of Columbus. I asked various guest speakers to lead the conferences and to preach at Mass.

Each of the days has been a wonderful blessing for the priests who have been able to attend. Of

*continued on next page*

---

**CATHOLIC WOMEN OF THE CHAPEL (CWOC) SERVE BREAKFAST TO PRIESTS GATHERED FOR AN EASTER DAY OF RECOLLECTION IN ROSE BARRACKS CHAPEL IN VILSECK, GERMANY ON 24 APRIL 2022.**

---





course, it is not easy for a busy priest to take off from work and travel 3-4 hours to be present. But each of the days has strengthened the bonds of the priesthood and reenergized our priests in their vitally important ministry to God's people in AMS.

Lord willing, I will plan five of these days for our priests in Europe and Asia during the next pastoral year (Fall 2022-Spring 2023). This would not be possible without our generous donors. Thank you for your prayers and support for all of us at AMS. God bless you. ☩

---

**ABOVE - CLOCKWISE PRIESTS ENJOY LUNCH PROVIDED BY CATHOLIC WOMEN OF THE CHAPEL DURING AN EASTER DAY OF RECOLLECTION IN ROSE BARRACKS CHAPEL IN VILSECK, GERMANY ON 24 APRIL 2022.**

**BISHOP MUHM PREACHES TO SOLDIERS AT MASS SUNDAY 15 MAY 2022 AT PABRADE TRAINING AREA, LITHUANIA.**

**AMS PRIESTS ATTENDING EASTER DAY OF RECOLLECTION IN ROSE BARRACKS CHAPEL IN VILSECK, GERMANY ON 24 APRIL 2022. FATHER BRIAN TAYLOR (LEFT), FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND CURRENTLY WORKING AT THE CONGREGATION FOR DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH IN THE VATICAN, WAS GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE DAY.**

---



# ***Serving Those Who Serve***

BY BISHOP JOSEPH COFFEY

**A**s the Vicar for Veterans Affairs for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, it is a great honor to travel around the United States visiting the Medical Centers (VAMC's) of the Department of Veterans Affairs, representing Archbishop Timothy Broglio. The Archbishop is the proper pastor for all the faithful of the U.S. military and VA. I am privileged to make pastoral visits and minister to our Catholic priest-chaplains who work at the VA hospitals.

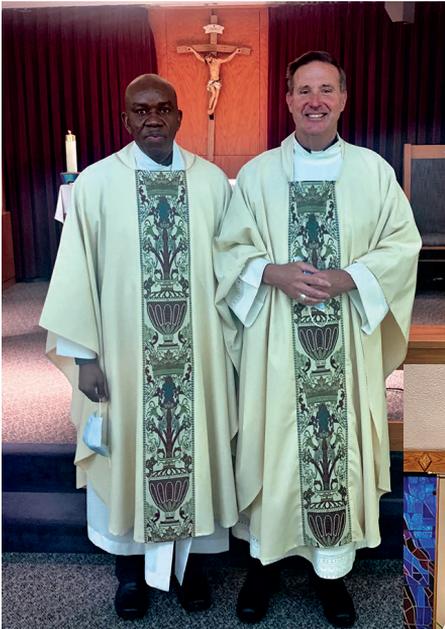
This past April was a particularly busy time for me. I drove a total of 4,500 miles visiting VA Medical Centers in several states. I would love to write about all the veterans medical centers, the great priest-chaplains, and their excellent work, but I will offer just a few highlights.

On 26 April 2022, I visited the VA Medical Center in North Providence, RI, which Father T.J. Varghese is serving. I had the added privilege of administering the sacrament of confirmation to some members of his parish in North Providence, where Father Varghese doubles as part-time chaplain at the local VA Medical Center and the pastor of a busy parish. I then drove to the Boston area, where our great Catholic priests serve in three different VA Medical Centers.

The Chief Chaplain of the VA Medical Center for the Boston area is Father Barry Eneh. Together with Father Peter Francis, they also cover the Brockton location. In addition, Father Robert Roetzel, a former Army Chaplain, Father Marc Fallon, and Father Bruce Teague cover the Roxbury and Jamaica Plains locations. I coordinated my visit on the same day they had their monthly area-wide training. We then had a nice dinner at a local restaurant and enjoyed some of the famous Boston seafood.

I also visited the VAMC in Charleston, S.C., which Father Lawrence Abara serves. The VA in Charleston is named in honor of Ralph H. Johnson, a U.S. Marine killed in action during the Vietnam War as a member of Company A, First Recon Battalion and First Marine Division. In March

1968, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism. Only 19 years old when he died, he is buried at the Beaufort, South Carolina National Cemetery. It is always an honor to visit the veterans and thank them for their service to our country. In addition, we thank the many Catholic priest-chaplains who dedicate themselves selflessly to the pastoral care of our veterans and their families. May the Lord continue to bless them. †



---

**BISHOP JOSEPH COFFEY AND  
FATHER LAWRENCE ABARA**

---

---

**BISHOP COFFEY, FATHER VARGHESE  
AND THE CONFIRMATION CLASS IN  
NORTH PROVIDENCE, RI.**

---





## Newly Co-Sponsored Seminarians Gather for First-Ever “*Welcome Aboard*” Event in the Nation’s Capital

BY TAYLOR HENRY

*Memorial Day Weekend was a working holiday of sorts for a select group of ten young men, whether early in seminary formation or about to enter seminary, in hopes of becoming Catholic priests and U.S. Military chaplains. For the first time ever, the Vocations Office of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS), under the leadership of Vocations Director Father S. Matthew Gray, hosted a formal “Welcome Aboard” gathering in Washington, D.C., for the incoming harvest of new Co-Sponsored Seminarians. “Co-sponsored” means the AMS shares the cost of each man’s seminary formation with his home diocese or religious community.*

Among those gathered was 24-year-old Samuel S. McPeak of Chesterfield, VA. Making small talk over the course of the four-day schedule of briefings, breakout sessions, and other activities, Mr. McPeak, an “army brat”—his parents were both career Army officers—tells a compelling story behind the “really long journey” to discern his vocation. “The seed was planted,” he says, in June 2012, when then-Auxiliary Bishop Richard B. Higgins of the AMS celebrated confirmation for Mr. McPeak and his classmates at Saint Martin of Tours Catholic Community, Fort Lee, VA.

Mr. McPeak recalls how Bishop Higgins, during his homily, “pointed at me and said, ‘Have you ever thought about becoming a Catholic priest?’ And I vehemently just said, ‘No. Absolutely not. Never!’ But that seed had been planted and it continued to grow in me and through high school.... Immediately after high school I attended West Point for a time and I transferred out of West Point to have more freedom to discern the priesthood and ultimately that last couple of years after I graduated from the University of Richmond, I determined that yes, I had a call to serve in the Military and also, God willing, a Catholic priest.” Mr. McPeak hopes eventually to serve as a U.S. Army chaplain.

Mr. McPeak and his fellow prospective priest-chaplains converged on the Edwin Cardinal O’Brien Pastoral Center on Michigan Avenue in Northeast Washington, D.C., AMS home base, from all over the country — from Phoenix, AZ, to Indianapolis, IN, to Pensacola, FL — for the 26-29 May gathering. Capt. Mark J. Becker, USMC, 31, came in from Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point in NC, where he was days away from separating from the Marine Corps to enter seminary in his home Diocese of Charlotte. “I’ve been discerning the priesthood for probably about two years now and actually dropped a request to leave the Marine Corps early. They let me leave about a year early and I definitely want to come back into the military.”

Capt. Becker said during his time in the service, he has seen firsthand how a chronic shortage of Catholic priests on active-duty sometimes makes it hard for Catholics who serve to exercise their faith, because there simply are not

*continued on next page*

enough priests to go around. Only 189 priests are currently on active-duty in all service branches, serving a Catholic military population of approximately 300,000 plus their families. "There's a very great need there, it really did open my eyes to how great a need is there and how few priests are there to handle that need." Capt. Becker hopes to go back on active-duty as a U.S. Navy chaplain after his ordination.

Donovan Kelly, 23-years old, said he discerned his vocation while active in the Catholic community at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) in Atlanta where he was a student in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). "I experienced this really beautiful confluence of these two worlds coming together," he said, "when I first fell in love with becoming a seminarian, becoming a chaplain candidate, and hopefully being a chaplain one day." Mr. Kelley is on track eventually to be ordained a priest in the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee. He hopes to serve as a U.S. Air Force chaplain.

"We've got some amazing men discerning the priesthood," Father Gray said. "They're all just very faithful men. Men with a servant's heart. They love military members and they have this desire to serve them in all the branches. I think that's the unifying quality about all the men is that they have this servant's heart, the shepherd's heart, to serve and they're just amazing men."

The addition of these ten men brings to 42 the total number currently in formation to become Catholic priests and U.S. military chaplains through the Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program. But the Military needs many more. "I'd like to encourage any young man, if you think God may be calling you to the priesthood and military chaplaincy, to reach out to us." Father Gray can be reached in the AMS Vocations Office at [vocations@milarch.org](mailto:vocations@milarch.org) or (202) 719-3600. He hopes to make the "Welcome Aboard" gathering an annual event, and any man who reaches out now just may be invited to the next one in 2023. ✚



The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA

## Pathway of Honor

Show your support for service members, veterans, chaplains, military families, and all who have served or continue to serve by reserving a commemorative brick today. Your brick will join hundreds of others lining the pathways of the Edwin Cardinal O'Brien Pastoral Center in Washington, D.C.

A suggested donation of \$150 will ensure that the brick you order, in memory of your loved one, will be placed in the "Pathway of Honor".

To order a brick, visit

<https://www.milarch.org/bricks/>

You can donate online or print a donation form.

If you have any questions, please contact the Advancement Office at: (202) 719-3622 or [support@milarch.org](mailto:support@milarch.org)



# Little Sister of the Poor who Died at the Age of 102 was a Heroine of D-Day

Reprinted with permission of Bérengère de Portzamparc - published on 04/29/22

*The quiet religious sister was an American soldier during the Second World War and participated in the 1944 Normandy landings.*

The daily life of the Little Sisters of the Poor —“poor among the poor” as their foundress Jeanne Jugan used to say—is focused on serving others, all with the greatest discretion.

And these are not just words. If proof were needed, this message that Father Laurent Berthout, of the Diocese of Bayeux, posted on Twitter, will show us.

Indeed, on Monday, April 4, the funeral of a 102-year-old Little Sister of the Poor took place in Caen, France, in the community’s chapel. What a surprise it was for the few faithful present to discover the coffin covered with the American flag, and in the congregation, the presence of three American soldiers who had come from their base in Belgium especially for the occasion.

This is how we learned that the discreet Little Sister Marie-Joseph of the Assumption, who lived in France since the 1950s and carried out her mission in various French and Belgian communities, was in fact American and a soldier!

Born in 1920 in Hamilton, Ohio, Mary Ulm — as she was known before entering religious life — enlisted in the American Army during the Second World War, working in communications, and as such participated in the Normandy landings in June 1944. She even went as far as Paris, marching on the Champs-Élysées.

It was during this time in France that young Mary discovered the Little Sisters of the Poor, and was particularly impressed by their kindness and devotion to refugees

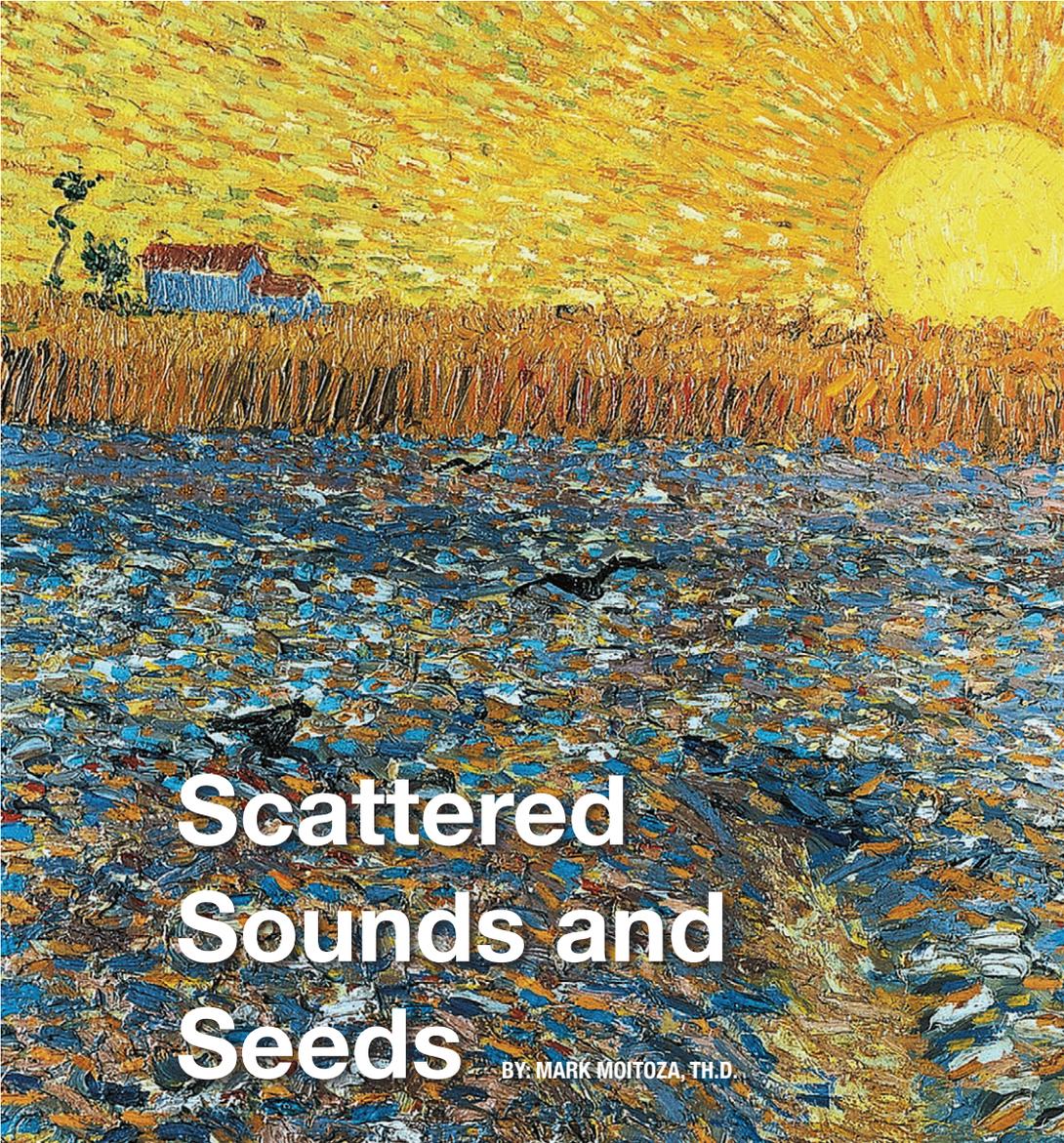


## LITTLE SISTERS *of the* POOR

and the wounded. So, upon her return to America she decided to apply, and began her novitiate in Detroit in 1950.

She took her temporary vows in 1952 and obtained permission to go to France, where she took her solemn vows in Paris in 1957. Since then, Little Sister Marie-Joseph had been at the service of the very poor, in France and then in Belgium, before arriving in Caen in 2018 and blowing out the candles of her 100-year birthday in 2020.

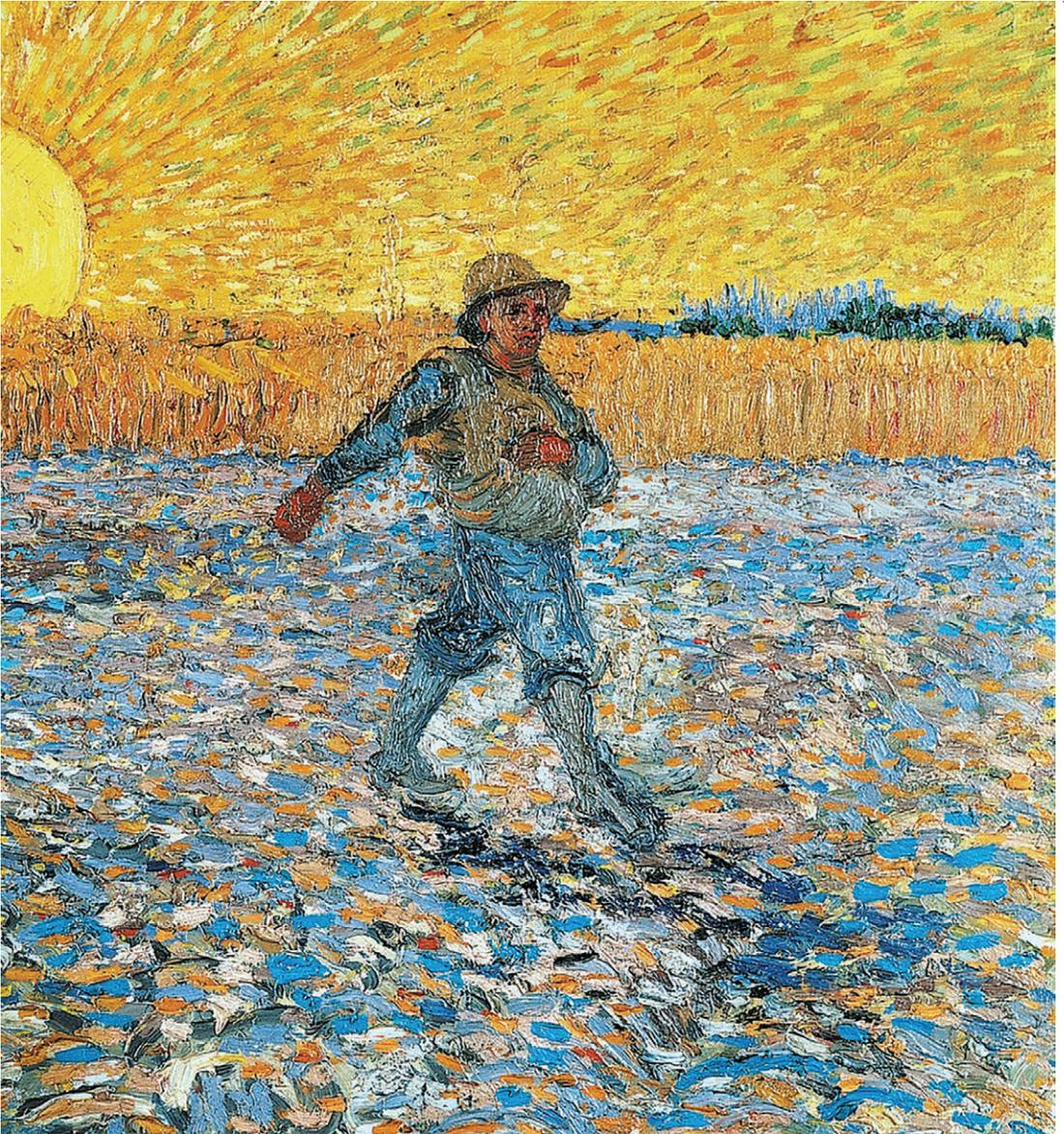
She died peacefully on April 1, and it was only then that the mother superior, one of the few who knew of her past, notified her family. A nephew came from the United States for the funeral, and the U.S. Army sent three military women to carry the casket. If it weren't for this lovely story being shared on social media, Sister Marie-Joseph might have left as quietly as she lived. But for once, while doing good doesn't make noise, sometimes it's good to hear a slight echo of it to warm the hearts and souls of the many. ✚



# Scattered Sounds and Seeds

BY: MARK MOITZA, TH.D.





*“...Van Gogh’s painting is typically bright, the sun is prominent. The cycle of nature is depicted with ripe corn in the background as the Sower scatters seed in a newly plowed field in the foreground. The viewer is reminded of the religious nod to the Sower of God’s word...”*

**ARTICLE ON NEXT PAGE**





**A**t the beginning of May, I took a trip to the Netherlands with my wife and two sons. We went to visit our daughter who is close to completing her first year of college in Maastricht. This was the first time we were all able to gather since we prayed with Anna in our living room on her day of departure nine months prior.

Our family reunion was as pleasant as the weather, which is saying something in the Benelux region since there were no dark clouds nor rain throughout the week. On our first full day in country, Anna led us on a morning hike from our Airbnb to Fort Sint Pieter. The trails have become familiar to her over the past year. She pointed out striking views that caught her attention.

While hiking I found myself thinking of the plates I grew up with. Those dishes had scenes of small European villages. My mother still has this set that she bought when we lived in Germany. With each step, I felt like I was walking through the peaceful scenes depicted on those plates. Rolling hills, manicured farm fields, vineyards in perfect rows, and people gathering in the streets portrayed a sense that community life is peaceful.

At noon, however, the peacefulness of our hike was broken with the harsh sound of a siren alert system broadcast throughout the city of Maastricht. Anna shared that this was the weekly test of the emergency warning system that had been taking place since the war broke out in Ukraine. Another memory of military personnel at Bitburg AB engaged in practice alerts in the 1980's took over my mind. Similar warning sounds blasted through speakers across the installation, a vivid memory from my days in high school.



No matter where one lives, the desire to dwell in the bucolic moments of peaceful living remains. Yet, interruptions force their way into our desire for maintaining calm. The current images of war in Ukraine recall black and white photos of previous European wars, only this time in full color. The beauty of that land combined with the horror of destruction and tragic loss of life creates tension that is hard to hold.

The thoughts of U.S. troops on alert not far from here and in Poland—close to the conflict made the tension more electric. We remain grateful for their commitment, but pray that the presence is only preventative.

The harsh sounds ended, and daily life resumed. The reminder to be on alert permeated our remaining steps as we toured an old fort designed to protect a way of life. Those steps were contrasted later in the week with a walk through a museum. Of note was Van Gogh's famous painting *De zaaier* (*The sower*), June 1888. Van Gogh's painting is typically bright, the sun is prominent. The cycle of nature is depicted with ripe corn in the background as the Sower scatters seed in a newly plowed field in the foreground. The viewer is reminded of the religious nod to the Sower of God's word.

While unexpected sounds and tension disrupt the search for daily peace the need to keep sowing God's word remains. All who are baptized have the mission to do the same. May we pursue that mission, recognizing God's love, no matter what each day brings. May the scattering of sunflower seeds throughout Ukraine return soon as a reminder of the brightness of the gift of faith that calls out to be sown and shared every chaotic day. ✚



# 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Mass

BY TAYLOR HENRY



*On Sunday 22 May, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, Archbishop for the Military Services, USA, celebrated the 28th Annual Memorial Mass for all serving, or who have served, in the U.S. Military, particularly those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our liberty. A congregation of approximately one-thousand took part in the 4:30 p.m. Mass in the Great Upper Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.*

*continued on next page*

The solemn Mass was preceded by confessions from 3:00 to 3:45 p.m., recitation of the Rosary at 3:45 p.m., and a choral prelude at 4:15 p.m. Joining Archbishop Broglio in the opening procession and concelebrating at the altar, were Bishop-emeritus Paul S. Loverde, Diocese of Arlington; Auxiliary Bishop Joseph L. Coffey, Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS); and other priests with deacons assisting. A posting of the colors and singing of the National Anthem preceded the opening words of prayer.

Preaching against the “‘me’ worship that too often characterizes our age,” Archbishop Broglio noted: “The quest is to keep the word that the Lord Jesus has given us and remain in His love. Then we can enjoy His gift of peace. Love and obedience are one and describe a life lived in Him. Love is the source and foundation of our obedience to the Lord....”

“Pope Francis reminded the military: ‘You are called not only to prevent, manage, or put an end to conflicts, but also to contribute to the construction of an order based on truth, justice, love and freedom, according to the definition of peace by St. John XXIII in his Encyclical *Pacem in terris*’ (Pope Francis, Discourse to Military and Police Forces, 30.IV.16).

“We recognize that authentic peace is much more than the absence of violence, or a situation of ‘cold war’. The dimension of biblical justice is also a part of peace. That indicates being in a ‘right or balanced relationship in a four-fold way: with God, with self, with others, and with the created world.’

“So we gather to pray for the repose of the souls of the priests who have served the Armed Forces, both on active-duty and contract and in the Department of Veterans Affairs. We remember all of those servicemen and



---

**AIRMEN PARTICIPATING IN THE ANNUAL MASS.**

---

women who have died, either in battle, from wounds, or after the normal journey of life. We pray for their loved ones--many left behind and seeking consolation and understanding. We include all of the intentions sent to the archdiocese for this occasion.”

EWTN cameras recorded the Memorial Mass and it was broadcast in North America on Memorial Day – Monday, 30 May, at 11:00 a.m. EDT. After Mass, Archbishop Broglio hosted a reception at the Edward J. Pryzbyla Center on the campus of The Catholic University of America. †

# WELCOME TO LOURDES

**Y**ou're seated at a crowded sidewalk café on a mild spring morning in the South of France watching the world go by. Literally. There in the street, close enough to touch,

colorful platoons and loud military marching bands from all over the planet stomp past your table one after the other in no particular order. You sip your café au lait and admire the pomp and pageantry of it all: the passing tight columns of young men and women in crisp uniforms—some formations go by chanting in unison—their jaws set and eyes fixed straight ahead under the ripple of proud

# FOR THE 62<sup>ND</sup> INTERNATIONAL MILITARY PILGRIMAGE

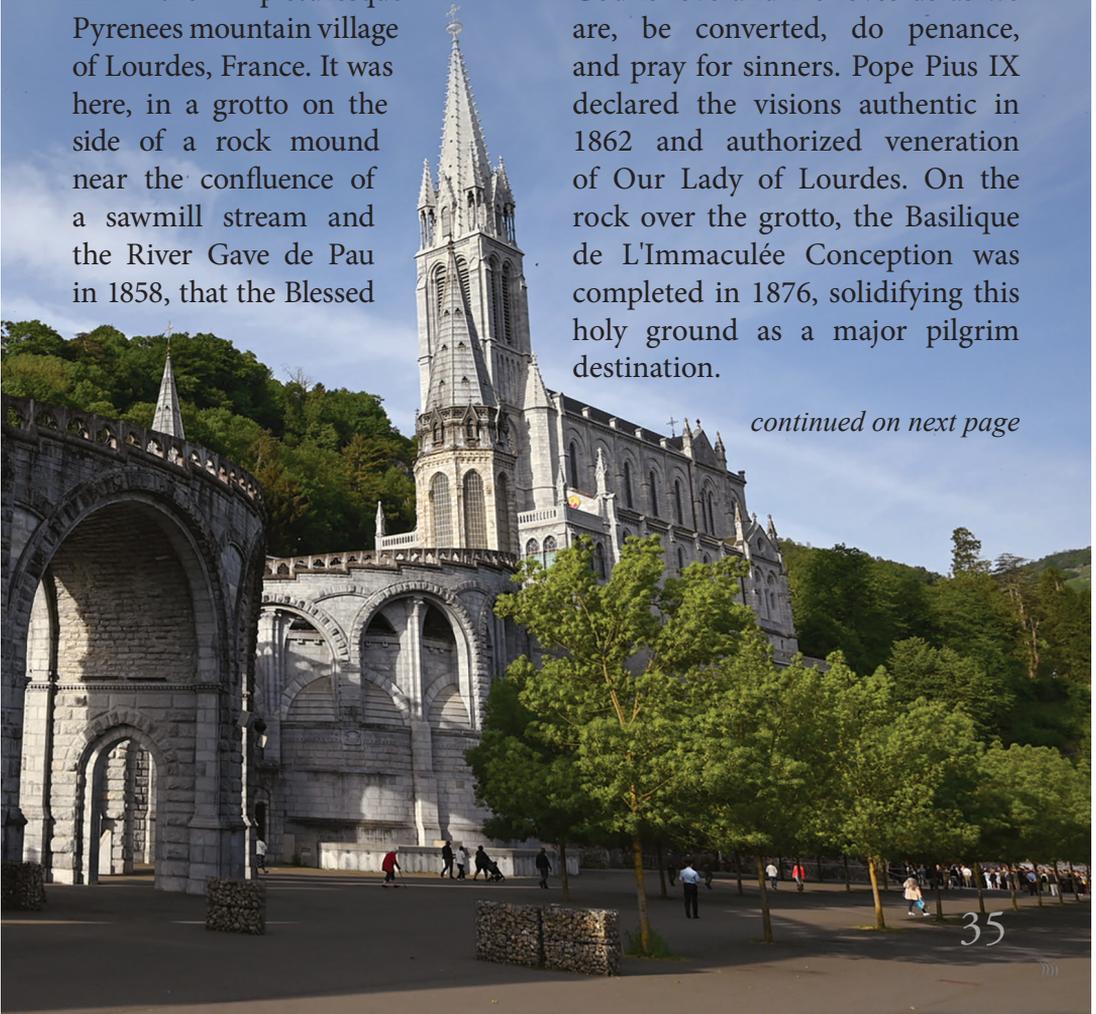
BY TAYLOR HENRY

flags waving patterns of red, yellow, green, blue, and other hues against a cerulean sky as drums pound and brass horns honk and hoot.

Welcome to the “Pèlerinage Militaire International” (PMI), or International Military Pilgrimage, in the picturesque Pyrenees mountain village of Lourdes, France. It was here, in a grotto on the side of a rock mound near the confluence of a sawmill stream and the River Gave de Pau in 1858, that the Blessed

Virgin Mary, identifying herself as “the Immaculate Conception,” appeared to a 14-year-old peasant girl named Bernadette Soubirous, to whom she revealed the existence of an underground spring and asked that a chapel be built on the site. Her message, in substantial part: God is love and He loves us as we are, be converted, do penance, and pray for sinners. Pope Pius IX declared the visions authentic in 1862 and authorized veneration of Our Lady of Lourdes. On the rock over the grotto, the Basilique de L’Immaculée Conception was completed in 1876, solidifying this holy ground as a major pilgrim destination.

*continued on next page*



# LOURDES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35



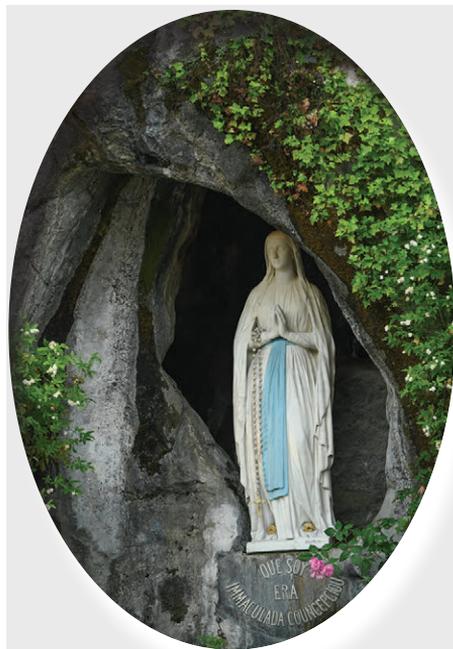
ALL PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The PMI started right after World War Two when former French and German enemy combatants came together in a gesture of reconciliation that quickly turned into an annual international event attended by militaries far and wide. This PMI, held 13-15 May, is the 62nd of all time and the first in three years. The 2020 and 2021 pilgrimages

were virtual over the COVID-19 pandemic. You're traveling with more than 230 fellow Americans in a group called Warriors to Lourdes, a U.S. delegation to the PMI co-sponsored annually since 2013 (except for 2020 and 2021) by the Knights of Columbus (K of C) and the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS).

The entourage comprises active-duty and retired or discharged U.S. Military personnel, some in wheelchairs or otherwise suffering wounds of war, along with their caregivers, companions, priests, and chaplains. All are in Lourdes to wash away—in the cold spring baths—the stains of sin, suffering, sickness, and sorrow; and to pray for healing, mercy, and peace. At a time when Europe is once again at war, even Ukraine has dispatched a small military delegation to march under their blue and gold colors alongside troops from more than 40 nations—you choke up at the sight of the four Ukrainians in battledress. The theme of this year’s PMI is “*Pacem Meam do Vobis*”—“My Peace I give to You.”

In a deft feat of logistical proficiency, the K of C has booked travel and hotel accommodations for Warriors from seven airport hubs in the continental United States—Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta, Washington-Dulles, Houston’s George Bush Intercontinental,



New York’s JFK, Los Angeles International, Raleigh-Durham, and Seattle-Tacoma—in addition to points of origin in Germany and elsewhere throughout Europe. At 1430 on 12 May, the Warriors, gaining their second wind from jet lag and cross-country travel, gather for an opening Mass in Saint Joseph’s Chapel below the Esplanade

*continued on next page*



## Warriors TO LOURDES



des Processions from the Basilica. Vested in white, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, Archbishop for the Military Services, USA, celebrates the Mass along with brother priests and chaplains. He preaches in part:

“The Father sent the Son as the Son sent his disciples. Everything points to the goal of the pilgrimage of life: to have eternal life in abundance. We were baptized into that life at the moment of our rebirth in the



waters of baptism. We hope to share in the fullness of that life at the end of our earthly pilgrimage. Every effort of the Church points to that ultimate goal. We even go on pilgrimage to remind ourselves that life is a journey to the fullness of life. We want to grow with the Lord and we want to accompany others on that road as well. We are grateful to the Knights of Columbus who have led us on the way. We thank those who accompany us as we gather in prayer to beg for peace.”

Archbishop Broglio is joined on the pilgrimage, and at the altar, by his Canadian counterpart, Bishop Scott McCaig, CC. Because the Canadian delegation comprises only two members, U.S. Marines among the Warriors to Lourdes step in to carry the Canadian colors at all official events.

Over a weekend schedule packed with Masses, meals, presentations, confessions, Blessed Sacrament and Rosary processions, Stations of the

*continued on next page*

Cross, parades, and a torchlight walk, you meet Adam and Tiffany Farabaugh, a U.S. Army couple from Pennsylvania. Both are former active-duty soldiers with experience in war zones. Tiffany, 38, is now a major in the Army Reserve. Adam, 37, is a medically retired sergeant. In Afghanistan on 7 July 2011, Adam was on dawn patrol when the Taliban hurled a grenade his way. “I think they were trying to hit our machine gun setup, M240 Bravo,” he says, “but it hit the tree, hit an apple tree, and the grenade fell next to me with a couple of apples and I leaned away, exposing my lower back. My plate carrier vest raised up as I leaned away so I could get away from the blast. That sent a bunch of shrapnel pieces into my back, which traveled up to my heart and into my spine and yeah, it was rough but I’m still here and the stuff is still in there, and I had some right leg issues but miraculously—which goes into this trip—miraculously, my L5 nerve kind of grew back

together after being severed which got me my leg back to full use, which doesn’t happen often, and the pieces of shrapnel that went up farther tore through the body to get up there



but they (the doctors) couldn't figure out how it got through all the intestines without creating little holes and causing leakage and gangrene. So they used words like ‘miracle.’” Even so, Adam’s prognosis remains delicate, because the tiny bits of shrapnel stuck in his soft tissue could still cause issues as he grows older. “Your organs shrink or they get bigger as you age,” he says, “and I can’t afford either because right now it’s working the way it is. And I only have millimeters to



spare. And we do what we can to keep it that way." But his diagnostic options are limited. He can't submit to a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scan, he says, because the magnet might pull the bits of metal around his chest cavity, potentially worsening his condition, "and we can't afford movement in the chest cavity area," he says. Every now and then, his back fails him. Such is the brave warrior's sacrifice for his country. Old war injuries don't always heal.

A purple heart under his belt, Adam remained hospitalized for nearly a month in 2011 before transferring



from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD, to the Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) at Fort Polk, LA, where he met Tiffany, who had served in Iraq. The couple married on 12 May 2016—they're celebrating their sixth anniversary on this pilgrimage—

*continued on next page*

and had a son named A.J., whom they have left with Tiffany's parents and her brother in the States for the duration of their trip to France. Both Adam and Tiffany are cradle Catholics, but Adam admits he quit going to church after his mother died in August 2001. Then, in May 2021, Tiffany was diagnosed with a brain tumor. The couple heard about Warriors to Lourdes. "So I decided to put in an application," Tiffany says, "but I only made it about halfway through and just wrote a paragraph about Adam, myself, and our son A.J., who's five, and then I didn't finish it because I believed other people deserved to be here more than we did." The online, incomplete application prompted a surprise callback from one of the Warriors to Lourdes organizers, Colonel Chuck Gallina, USMC (Ret.). Tiffany says Col. Gallina "called me and asked if I wanted to go on this trip. He said he was moved by my essay and wanted me to go." The K of C paid their way, as the Knights do for so many other Warriors to Lourdes.

While in Lourdes, the Farabaughs were active pilgrims. "Oh, we did it all," Tiffany says. "We did every part of it. Some of it we did twice. We did the Grotto twice for sure. And then we did the bath. We participated in all the ceremonies." The couple prays not only for the healing of their bodies but also for Our Lady's watchful care over their little boy. "I really came to Lourdes for my son," Adam says. "I want my son to grow up in the church system a little differently than I did."

Sunday, 15 May, a bright clear day in the Pyrenees, opens with an international Mass in the Basilica of Saint Pius X, a vast underground sanctuary with a seating capacity of 25,000, which the International Military Pilgrims have no trouble filling to the seams. Archbishop Broglio is among bishops and priests concelebrating. Finally, after a candlelit PMI closing ceremony along the Esplanade des Processions on Sunday evening, the Farabaugh's returned home to their 93-acre farm in Cambria County, PA. There, on

Sunday, 24 May, special graces are received at Saint Benedict Catholic Church in Carrolltown: five-year-old A.J., now cheerfully reunited with his pilgrim parents, is reborn in the waters of baptism, becoming

a new Catholic on his own earthly pilgrimage toward fullness of life. For the Farabaugh family, that's cause for celebration worth any number of festive military parades anywhere in the world, or beyond. †

### *Prayer for the Pilgrimage*

*Lord, may our visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes help us to unburden all the pain and difficulties besetting us.*

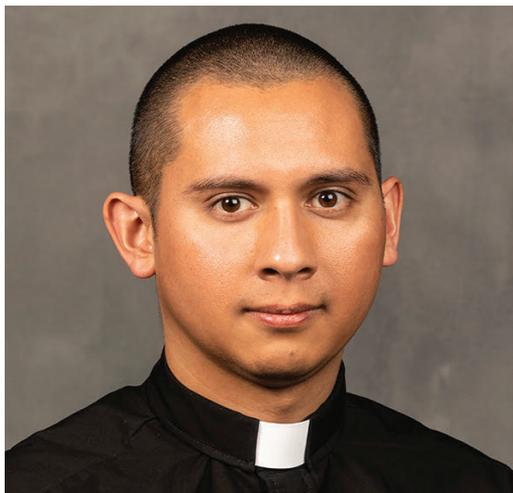
*Refresh our souls and quench our thirst for your grace at Lourdes.*

*Moreover, may this holy place convey upon us your healing power and Divine grace that will allow us to face the world, once again after our pilgrimage, with courage, determination, hope, faith and love.*

*May you forever instill in our hearts that as Christians we are on constant pilgrimage in this world, that we are pilgrims working our way to Your Heavenly Kingdom, where you live and reign forever and ever.*

*Amen.*

# THE HARVEST CONTINUES...



**NAME:** *Alexander (A.J.) Houston*

**DIOCESE:** *Knoxville, TN*

**ARMED FORCES BRANCH:** *Army*

**RANK:** *1LT*

**EDUCATION/DEGREES:**

*University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music: Bachelor of Music in Music Education and Clarinet Performance.*

*Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology: Master of Arts in Catholic Philosophical Studies.*

**HIGH SCHOOL:**

*Farragut High School, Knoxville, TN*

**HOBBIES:**

*Running, Weightlifting, Hiking, Camping, Reading, Playing Music, and Chess*

**WHEN WAS THE FIRST TIME YOU THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE A VOCATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD?**

*I first felt called to the priesthood after reading a book about the lives of the saints while I was stationed at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas.*

**WHO OR WHAT EVENTS INFLUENCED YOUR DISCERNMENT JOURNEY?**

*Although I first considered missionary work in the religious life, the experience of being far from home on a deployment to Iraq convinced me that I wanted to serve as a diocesan priest in my home diocese of Knoxville, Tennessee. However, I believe that my service as an Army chaplain will fulfill my earlier desire for adventure and ministry all over the world.*

*I would be remiss not to also mention Father David Ivey, a former Air Force chaplain, but later became an Army chaplain, whose preaching inspired me while I was a parishioner at the St. Michael Catholic Community at Fort Bliss.*

### **WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SCRIPTURE PASSAGE, WHY?**

*Isaiah 12:2 "God indeed is my salvation; I am confident and unafraid. For the LORD is my strength and my might, and he has been my salvation."  
It is a simple yet powerful affirmation of trust in the Lord in difficult times.*

### **HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST PERSONALLY?**

*I came to know Jesus through adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Some of my most powerful prayerful experiences have been in His presence at adoration.*

### **WHAT SPIRITUAL EVENTS OR ACTIVITIES HELPED YOU DEVELOP AND SHARE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH?**

*At the University of Cincinnati I became involved with a Catholic young adult group that would regularly pray the Liturgy of the Hours, do Bible studies, go on retreats, and simply spend time together. It was this experience of living in a vibrant community of faith that truly transformed my own faith into something personal and meaningful.*

### **WHAT SAINTS OR CHURCH LEADERS INSPIRED YOUR DISCERNMENT JOURNEY?**

*St. Ignatius of Loyola has been a part of my discernment journey, particularly because I can identify with his life. Like St. Ignatius, I also was a soldier seeking glory and worldly success, only to be humbled by a leg injury. This experience of humility made me open to discerning God's call to the priesthood.*

*St. Jude has also been a powerful saint in my life. Jude is both my middle name and my Confirmation name, and I have turned to St. Jude in times when I have desperately needed the virtue of hope.*

### **WHAT WAS YOUR BACKGROUND BEFORE APPLYING TO BE A SEMINARIAN?**

*I was an enlisted Army Musician assigned to the 1st Armored Division Band at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas. I was a clarinetist in the concert and marching bands, and I was a sound technician for the rock band, Iron Will.*

### **WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPIRITUAL BOOK?**

*The Imitation of Christ by Thomas à Kempis*

### **WHO ARE YOUR HEROES OR PEOPLE YOU SIGNIFICANTLY ADMIRE?**

*I admire teachers of all kinds, such as public school teachers, catechists, and especially parents. The formation of future generations depends in large part on the dedication of our teachers, and unfortunately they often do not receive the recognition and gratitude I think they rightly deserve.*

# Grant Ready, Willing, and Able

BY MARY LAVIN

**F**or a non-profit organization to be sustainable, it must have strong leadership, a community of supporters who understand and believe in the impact of its mission, and a comprehensive fundraising program with a variety of revenue streams. The AMS is blessed to have all of these, including a growing foundations program, to help meet increasing annual expenses.

Most grants awarded to the AMS are from independent and family foundations. Grants from community foundations are most often received at the recommendation of a grantor with a donor-advised fund. Unrestricted grants support all programs and initiatives while project-specific or restricted grants support the Vocations and Co-Sponsored Seminarian Programs, Evangelization initiatives such as the new Young Adult Missionary Initiative, digitizing records of sacraments celebrated on U.S. Military installations and Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers since 1920 – and more, based on the needs of the AMS and the interests of a particular foundation.

Over the last several years, foundations that supported the AMS for years significantly reduced or did not provide additional grants as the result of a change in funding priorities, a decline in organizational fundraising, or a leadership decision. Thankfully, new foundations joined the AMS community of supporters for the first time, others increasing the number and size of grants provided. According to *Giving USA 2021: The Annual Report on Philanthropy*, giving by foundations grew 17 percent in 2020, and has grown for ten consecutive years. (<https://givingusa.org>). The AMS continues to increase awareness about its mission to engage more foundations whose goals and funding priorities align

with the same to better serve the pastoral needs of the military men, women, and families for whom it is responsible.

### **So, how can you help?**

If you have a donor-advised fund with a community foundation, please consider recommending a new one-time or recurring grant to the AMS. Please share information about the AMS with your program officer who may not be familiar with the AMS and who works with other potential donors.

If you have a family foundation and are interested in helping the AMS continue to be adaptive, responsive, and resilient during what continues to be an uncertain time in history, please consider an introductory conversation, especially if the foundation does not accept unsolicited requests. The same is true if you are on the board of directors of a foundation for which the goals of the AMS would resonate support.

Philanthropy is about relationships and a sense of community – believing in the mission, ministry, leadership, and impact of a non-profit organization, and wanting to be part of it. Thank you for being part of the AMS mission and its ministry to our Catholic military personnel, veterans, and their families. **For more information about the aforementioned opportunities, please email or call Mary Lavin, Executive Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving ([mlavin@milarch.org](mailto:mlavin@milarch.org) or (440) 223-6482).** †



# Vacation Bible Study (VBS)

BY JOSÉ AMAYA, DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

Recently, a Coordinator of Religious Education proposed surveying military Catholic faith communities regarding Vacation Bible School. The following questions were proposed: Will the Chapel hold VBS this coming June, July, or August? What is the name of the VBS curriculum? Are Chapels allowed to trade/share the VBS curriculum?

The responses revealed a dynamic and diverse picture. Ten out of 27 respondents shared that VBS is scheduled for June, nine will be held in August, and four in July. One installation already had canceled VBS and three are discerning dates in collaboration with the Protestant faith community.

Based on the feedback received, *Growing with the Saints*, *Totus Tuus*, and *Monumental 2022* stood out as the prevalent Catholic titles for VBS. *Zoomerang 2022*, *Rocky Railway*, *Group 2021 Treasured*, *Hey Day –Growing in Friendship with Jesus*, and *Wilderness Escape 2020* were noted as popular Protestant/ecumenical titles.

While some installations facilitate a Catholic VBS, a majority collaborate to host an ecumenical experience. A couple of installations plan to partner with a nearby installation or with a local parish. Sharing or trading VBS programs was not identified as a welcome practice due to copyright laws, purchasing materials with allocated funds, and required shipping costs. Some installations were willing to share extra books and T-shirts, and one Chapel was willing to trade the VBS program.

Thanks to benefactors of the Archdiocese, each installation religious education program has a free account on the *AMS Family Witness to Christ* platform powered by CatholicBrain.com. Those accounts provide all Catholic faith communities with access to a five-day complimentary VBS resource called *The Incredible Savior*. This

option covers the following themes: Who is Jesus, The Incarnation, Redemption, The Eucharist, and The Catholic Church.

VBS is one of the 17 tabs of faith formation content that Catholic families will find on the *AMS Family Witness to Christ* platform. Families are encouraged to reach out to the priest or catechetical leader on the installation to obtain information on creating a free account for their children in grades Pre-K through 12.

There is a catechetical dimension in the mission to evangelize the baptized and those who may not be active in their faith through VBS programs. Catholic faith communities can seize the moment by inviting the parents of these children and their catechists to have an encounter with the living Word of God in the Sacred Scriptures. The Directory for Catechesis, no. 77, states “catechesis for adults...must be considered the chief form of catechesis.” The second standard in the *AMS Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization* is Sacred Scripture. Parents may be provided *lectio divina* style Bible study. Catechists should be invited to sign up for a Scripture course online through VLCFF or Catholic Distance University. These moments and opportunities for growth in faith must all lead to encountering Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. May the VBS programs offered this summer help all family members recognize Christ. †



**CATHOLIC BRAIN VBS**

**Incredible Savior VBS program** featuring Brother Francis with amazing features to manage your VBS program at home or in person.

[Learn more >](#)

**THE INCREDIBLE SAVIOR**

DISCOVER HOW JESUS SAVES THE WORLD

To the

# Ends of the Earth!

BY CASEY LEE

The Lord calls us to “go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations...” (Matthew 28:19). This is a charge the disciples take after the Resurrection and is the calling of each baptized son and daughter of God. How this plays out in each person’s life varies but this will be a special duty several men and women will answer in the coming years. The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, began planning a missionary initiative last year which resulted in the hiring of McKenzie Mauss, Young Adult Missionary Coordinator, and continues, this year, with the recruitment of candidates for missionary service. A team of four missionaries will be placed at an installation later this year. Before beginning their service, the missionaries will receive training in Washington, D.C. to become familiar with evangelization and continue formation in a life of prayer. The need for young servicemen and women to be accompanied by people of faith

*continued on page 52*



---

**DVIDS PHOTO; DRILL SERGEANTS SOLDIERS TO 2ND BATTALION,  
48TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, FORT LEONARD WOOD IN 2017.**

---



is crucial as religious affiliation statistics decline every year, yet the search for identity still remains. Staff members from the Office of Evangelization visited three military installations to be considered for the initiative. Many factors are considered in selecting the locations to include a supportive priest-chaplain, a large young adult population, and access to connect with the military young adults. One of those installations was Travis AFB, CA which is home to three major Air Force aircraft – the C-5, KC-10, and C-17 – along with the David Grant Medical Center. With such a wide range of missions, this location also presents an opportunity to accompany many military young adults. The greatest need witnessed was that of the young Airmen residing in the base dormitories. These young men and women are starting out their careers in the Air Force and are often experiencing true independence for the first time. There is an ecumenical chapel outreach program that takes place at the Peak Airman's Ministry Center located near the dormitories which offers free

coffee, home-cooked meals, and many opportunities to volunteer. The ministry center could be a great place for missionaries to engage with the Airmen as well as grow in fellowship, thereby providing an opportunity to challenge the Catholic young adults to dive more deeply into their faith.

Over the summer, the AMS began virtual interviews with missionary candidates. McKenzie and I are planning the training that will take place in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the training is to ground the missionaries in holistic formation based on the USCCB's guide, *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*. The four topics of focus are: 1) human formation, 2) spiritual formation, 3) relational and pastoral formation, and 4) apostolic and intellectual formation. The missionaries will also receive formal training on how to fundraise. Missionaries will be formed in their understanding of military culture and the common stressors that are experienced by the young adult military community.



---

**CASEY LEE AND MCKENZIE MAUSS TOUR THE C-17 WITH A  
CREW CHIEF, STAFF SERGEANT CODY RAY, US AIR FORCE.**

---

The pillars of the AMS Missionary life are prayer, community, formation, and accompaniment. Throughout the training, these pillars will provide the foundation for how they will live daily as missionaries. Each day of training is ordered around prayer and the sacraments. Missionaries commit to spending an hour in personal prayer, attending daily Mass, and cultivating fellowship with one another. The training will teach the missionaries how to embed themselves into the life of the

military Catholic faith community to encourage the mission of evangelization.

Missionaries will make a commitment of one to two years to this initiative. I ask for prayers that the Holy Spirit will guide the right men and women to serve this population which is in great need of accompaniment and discipleship formation. If you would like to find out more, please visit the AMS website at [www.milarch.org/missionaries](http://www.milarch.org/missionaries). ☩

# Save the Dates



*All events  
are subject to  
change based on  
governmental  
mandates.*

## *Catholic War Veterans and Auxiliary National Convention*

**22-28 August 2022**

*Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel • Baltimore, MD*

## *Labor Day Gathering for Co-Sponsored Seminarians*

**2-4 September 2022**

*Edwin Cardinal O'Brien Pastoral Center • Washington, D.C.*

## *Memorial Mass for*

### *Father Vincent R. Capodanno, MM, Servant of God*

**6 September 2022**

*Crypt Church*

*Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception*

*Washington, D.C. 20017*

*Archbishop Broglio will be the principal celebrant and homilist*

## *National Conference of Veterans Affairs Catholic Chaplains (NCVACC)*

### *Annual Convention*

**24-28 October 2022**

*University Guest House & Conference Center • Salt Lake City, UT*

## *Fall Discernment Retreat for Prospective Catholic U.S. Military Chaplains*

**29 September - 2 October 2022**

*St. Mary's Seminary • Baltimore, MD*

## *Annual Pilgrimage for the Sea Services*

**2 October 2022**

*Basilica at the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton*

*339 South Seton Avenue • Emmitsburg, MD 21727*

## *National Collection for the AMS*

**5-6 November 2022**

*Catholic parishes nationwide*

*For more information visit [www.milarch.org/nationalcollection](http://www.milarch.org/nationalcollection)*

## *14th Annual Benefit for the AMS*

**19 November 2022**

*Saint John Paul II National Shrine*

*3900 Harewood Road NE • Washington, DC 20017*

*Archbishop Broglio will be on hand to celebrate Mass and greet*

*AMS supporters*



# You Shop. Amazon Gives.

Help make a difference

Select the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate to the AMS every time you shop.



## SESSIONS

- 17 September 2022
- 10 December 2022
- 11 March 2023
- 10 June 2023

## AMS VOCATIONS VIRTUAL Q&A

Register for more information  
[vocations@milarch.org](mailto:vocations@milarch.org)



ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE  
MILITARY SERVICES, USA





## Archdiocese For The Military Services, USA

P.O. Box 4469

Washington, D.C. 20017-0469

“Serving Those Who Serve”

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MVPRINT

*“Ever grateful for your support and your prayers, I hope that you  
will have a restful summer that offers time for renewal.”*

*– Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio*