

HISTORY OF THE CHAPLAINCY

In the history of our country, Catholic priests have served the American armed forces with distinction and valor. Since the creation of the AMS in 1985, and previously through the military vicariate, priests were released from U.S. dioceses and religious communities whose bishops and superiors recognized their collegial responsibility to *“Serving Those Who Serve”*. The heroic deeds of Catholic military chaplains called to battle in defense of the Nation comprise one of the most glorious chapters in American Church history. The long list of those who gave their lives in service to God and Country stands as a shining tribute.

While a Catholic military chaplain remains incardinated in his home diocese or religious community, the Archbishop grants him endorsement and faculties to function as a military priest-chaplain.



“The Archdiocese for the Military Services introduced me to good men...priests and seminarians...who were discerning or had discerned the call to military priesthood as well as a host of generous military men and women who have extended nothing but support and encouragement.”

— Michael Hofer,
Diocese of Rapid City, South Dakota,
Co-Sponsored Seminarian,
Air Force Chaplain Candidate.



MISSION OF THE AMS

The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS) was established by Blessed Pope John Paul II in 1985 as the only organization responsible for providing the Church’s full range of pastoral ministries and spiritual services to Catholics in the U.S. armed forces.

As the Nation’s only archdiocese without geographical boundaries, the AMS endorses and grants faculties to priests for on-site ministry at more than 220 U.S. military installations in 29 countries and 153 VA Medical Centers throughout the U.S.

CURRENT SITUATION

As aging Catholic priests reach the military’s mandatory retirement age of 62 faster than they can be replaced, our Nation’s armed forces are in growing need of younger men answering God’s call. The number of active-duty chaplains has fallen from more than 400 in 2001 to fewer than 250 today. While Catholics make up about 25% of the U.S. armed forces, Catholic priests currently account for only 8% of military chaplains.

The Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program was set up between the AMS and cooperating U.S. dioceses and religious communities to replenish the ranks of Catholic priests both in the U.S. military and throughout the Church by supporting vocations drawn largely from the armed forces.

An annual vocations survey found that nearly 10% of newly ordained U.S. priests have previous military experience and about 20% come from military families, making the AMS the largest single source of American priestly vocations. No wonder! Both the military and the priesthood require many of the same virtues, including valor, discipline and commitment to service.

The Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program enables men, who show evidence of a vocation to priestly ministry in the military, to receive financial support for seminary from both the AMS and their local dioceses or religious communities. Once the new priest is ordained and has completed three (3) years of priestly pastoral service in his diocese or community, he will be eligible to serve on active duty as a military chaplain.



MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

Vatican II reminded all of us that every baptized Catholic is responsible for the transmission of our faith to the next generation. We fulfill that mission by our daily witness of a lived faith in action, our involvement

in catechetical programs, our sincere prayers, and our encouragement of vocations to the priesthood, religious life, or consecrated service.

Therefore, we are all vocation promoters! In the Archdiocese for the Military Services we fulfill that role principally by encouraging young people to consider a specific vocation and by the Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program.

Almighty God has blessed this Archdiocese with at least a 10% annual contribution to priestly ordinations in the USA. That statement provokes both pride and commitment. The commitment obliges us to continue the fostering of vocations and the support of the fine young men studying in the seminary.

Thank you in advance for meeting the commitment.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

The Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio
Archbishop for the Military Services, USA



AMS

The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA

DISCERNMENT AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

Step 1: Prayerfully seek the advice of your local pastor or Catholic military chaplain. If you are a seminarian, discuss your interest and discernment regarding the military chaplaincy with your formation directors and bishop or religious superior. Follow their directions.

Step 2: With their permission contact the AMS Director of Vocations. You will then be asked to complete a survey which provides personal, academic, ecclesiastical, and military information about yourself. On the basis of information gathered, specific guidance will be offered to you by the AMS Office of Vocations.

Director of Vocations
Phone: 202-719-3600
Email: vocations@milarch.org
www.milarch.org/vocations

Step 3: Attend one of the two annual vocation discernment retreats sponsored by the AMS. This retreat will give you the opportunity to meet with the AMS Director of Vocations and military priest-chaplains from the different branches of service to learn more about the rewards and challenges of serving both God and your country.

Step 4: If a mutual decision has been made between you and your bishop or religious superior giving you permission to be a co-sponsored seminarian chaplain candidate, you will then be invited to apply for the Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program on our website at: www.milarch.org/vocations.



ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE
MILITARY SERVICES, USA



www.milarch.org/vocations

THE CO-SPONSORED
SEMINARIAN PROGRAM

MILITARY CHAPLAIN'S VOCATION

Military chaplaincy is a "vocation within a vocation." It is a priestly ministry to people in military service to their country. Pope Benedict XVI told an October 25, 2011 international meeting of Military Ordinaries that,

"The work of evangelization in the military world calls for assumption of responsibilities, so that, in this ambit, there is always a new, convinced and joyful proclamation of Jesus Christ, the only hope of life and peace for humanity."

As a sacramental minister, the military priest-chaplain brings Christ and the healing presence of the Church to women and men serving in an endless range of stressful, dangerous, and often life-threatening circumstances. He must be prepared to transfer from homeland ministry to ministry in a war zone on a moment's notice and act as comforter to service members and their families in a way few others will ever experience.

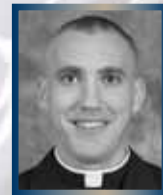
Providing for the spiritual and sacramental needs of men and women in uniform is an essential task, and Catholic military priest-chaplains are in higher demand now than ever before. Christ needs men to answer the call to the chaplaincy for the good of the Church, the country, and the world.

SEMINARY TRAINING

For men currently in the armed forces, after initial screening by the AMS, the military service member will be put in contact with a local diocese or religious community participating in the Co-Sponsored Seminar Program. The candidate must satisfy the vocational, psychological, academic, and spiritual evaluations of the local diocese or community. This normally requires personal interviews with the local vocation director and members of an admissions board. Upon acceptance, the candidate will attend a seminary chosen by the local bishop or religious superior.

The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA Co-Sponsored Program

CO-SPONSORED SEMINARIANS



Rev. Mr. William Appel
Covington
Navy



Gary Bass
Monterey
Navy



Anthony Bittar
Denver
Army



"I encourage both the military Ordinaries and military chaplains to be, in every situation and context, faithful heralds of the truth of peace."

— Pope Benedict XVI



Ryan Boyle
St. Petersburg
Air Force



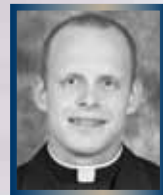
Mark Bristol
Brooklyn
Navy



Rev. Mr. Jason Burchell
Arlington
Navy



Justin Charlebois
Albany
Air Force



Rev. Mr. Chris Christensen
Arlington
Navy



John Crutchfield
Helena
Army



Daniel Czajak
Syracuse
Army



Callan Davis
Boston
Air Force



Christopher Dorsey
Orlando
Army



Miguel Flores-Perez
Austin
Army



Thomas Gallagher
Arlington
Army



Vincent Gilmore
Indianapolis
Air Force



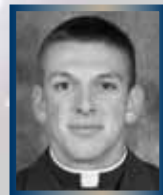
James Hickman
Richmond
Army



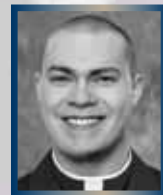
James Hinkle
Arlington
Navy



Michael Hofer
Rapid City
Air Force



Sean Koehr
Arlington
Navy



Anthony Lezcano
Seattle
Navy



Lorenz Madarang
Colorado Springs
Air Force



Kenneth Malley
Eparchy of Parma
Air Force



Rev. Mr. Angel Marrero
Baltimore
Army



John Michael Metz
Atlanta
Army



Richard Monteverde
Orlando
Army



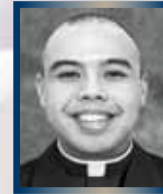
Peter Morgan
Colorado Springs
Air Force



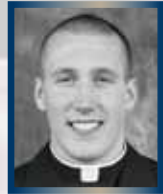
Jonathan Norton
Fort Wayne-South Bend
Navy



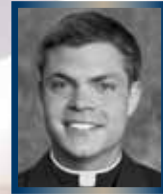
Philip O'Neill
Hartford
Air Force



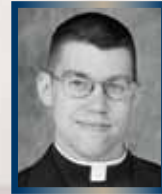
Juan Rosete
Springfield-Cape Girardeau
Army



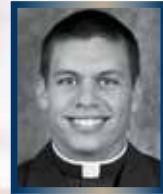
Samuel Schneider
Superior
Navy



Alexander Scott
Washington
Army



Kevin Seymore
Harrisburg
Army



Rev. Mr. Paul Shovelain
St. Paul-Minneapolis
Army



Callan Sweeney
Austin
Army



Jacob Valle
Peoria
Air Force



Rev. Mr. Steven Walker
Arlington
Navy



Adam Woodward
Monterey
Air Force

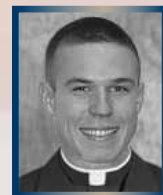


Christopher Yakkell
AMS
Air Force

CO-SPONSORED PRIESTS



Father Stephen Cotter
Baltimore
Army



Father Luke Dundon
Arlington
Navy



Father Stuart King
Houma-Thibodaux
Air Force



Father David Reamsnyder
Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter
Navy



Father Nicholas Reid
Jefferson City
Army



Father Christopher Rhodes
Louisville
Army



Father Michael Taylor
Albany
Army



Father Brian Wood
Lubbock
Air Force



Father Andrew Young
Sioux Falls
Navy

MILITARY TRAINING

Seminarians entering major seminary are expected to enter the military chaplain candidate program during their theological training. Seminarians are free to choose any one of the three military service branches in which to serve (Army; Navy, which includes ministry to all of the Sea Services; or Air Force). Upon entrance into the chaplain candidate program the seminarian will be commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant or Ensign in his chosen branch of service. As a chaplain candidate, the seminarian will be granted opportunities to engage in military training or pastoral ministry under the supervision of a senior military chaplain on a military installation or naval vessel.

The chaplain candidate program gives the seminarian a taste of what ministry as a military chaplain would be like by providing him essential training, which informs his discernment. Through the program, the military provides seminarians with the discipline and leadership skills to meet the physical and mental demands of military chaplaincy, while enhancing their formation experience in the seminary and ministry as Catholic priests.

Upon ordination to the priesthood, all co-sponsored chaplain candidates are expected to serve as chaplains in the Reserve until entrance into active duty. The AMS requires all newly ordained priests to serve at least three (3) years in their home diocese or religious community before joining the military full time.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any single Catholic young man who is a US citizen with college experience who shows signs of having a vocation to priestly ministry, can meet the academic requirements for seminary training, and qualifies for military service is eligible to apply.

A candidate must be able to enter active duty before age 42. Adjustments on the entry age may be made for those with prior military service as long as the total number of years of military service can equal twenty years or more.

If you are currently a seminarian, you must first discuss your interest in the military chaplaincy with your formation director and bishop or religious superior; follow his directions.