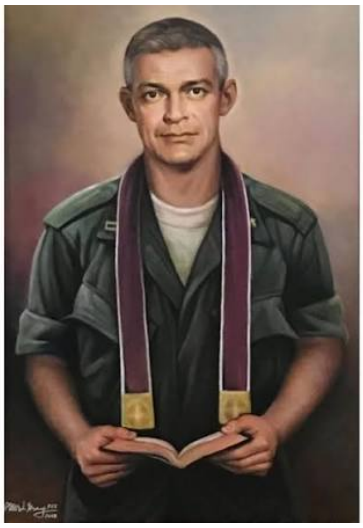
Marianist Moments

As we honor and thank our Veterans this month, we give special gratitude to the brave priests who answer the call of Chaplain.



"Pray hard, receive the sacraments frequently, and above all give good example."
Fr. Emil Kapaun, U.S Army Captain WWII, Korea
https://frkapaun.org/



"To remain faithful, patient and hopeful in times of great suffering is truly the test of our love of God and trust in Him as our Father."
Fr. Vincent Capodanno, Lieutenant U.S. Marine Corps, Vietnam
https://www.capodannoguild.org/



"God and the angels were watching over us and we were hit a lot, but 90 percent of the rockets and mortars didn't do anything except to make a hole in the ground."
Fr. Eric Albertson, U.S. Army Rangers, Colonel, Afghanistan & Iraq Wars

The Role of a Military Chaplain

Mandated since 1775, the presence of a Chaplain guarantees the free exercise of religion for all serving far from home. The Chaplain acts as an essential spiritual and emotional buffer against combat stress and trauma.

They deploy with units, accompany troops into combat environments, and build trust by sharing daily routines, workouts, and informal moments

Their mission includes ministering to personnel dealing with the difficulties of military service. Chaplains serve unarmed under the Geneva Conventions to assist all troops, regardless of personal faith backgrounds.

"The *Archdiocese for the Military Services'* worldwide mission, of approximately 533 priests, is to provide for the pastoral care of the 1.8 million Catholics serving in the United States Armed Forces, their family members, students at the Military Academies, patients in VA medical centers and US governmental personnel serving abroad. 212 are on active duty and the others serve in the Reserves, National Guard, Air National Guard, or as civilian/VA chaplains." https://www.milarch.org/





"The Catholics pick the very best chaplains - young, robust, active and patriotic. The troops look up to them."
USMC Lt. General Chesty Puller

In 2008, the AMS started the Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program, a long-term program to recruit priestly vocations from the military for the benefit of US dioceses, religious orders and the armed forces.

There are 36 co-sponsored seminarians from 25 US dioceses studying in 18 seminaries this year.

There are more than 250,000 Catholics between the ages of 18 and 29 on active duty. These military members chose a vocation that demands sacrifice, self-discipline, obedience, and valor, all important virtues for the priesthood or religious life.

The Archdiocese for the Military Services assists young men in the military to discern a vocation to the priesthood by offering two vocation discernment retreats per year. Sixty-eight men attended the three AMS vocation discernment retreats in 2015.

A record was set in 2025 for prospective Catholic U.S. Military chaplains, who gathered to discern the "vocation within a vocation" as both Catholic priests and military chaplain officers on active duty. Of these, ten have become co-sponsored seminarians. Three men have become diocesan seminarians and one has become a religious novice.