



# Pilgrims on the way of Hope: A Resource for the Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel

## **Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope**

United States Conference of  
Catholic Bishops

## **Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel: Resource Packet**

February 8-9, 2025

## **INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW**

Jubilee 2025 invites you to be a pilgrim of hope. For Christians, hope is anchored in the encounter with Jesus whose life, death, and resurrection reveals God's transforming love. Our hope in God is renewed constantly in the gift of the Holy Spirit, the love of the Father and the Son, who is given, even now, to the community of believers.

The Holy See has designated a number of Jubilee Days throughout 2025 to recognize and celebrate different groups of people and various ministries in the Church. The Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel will be held from Saturday, February 8, to Sunday, February 9, 2025.

Recently, Pope Francis addressed participants in the 64th International Military Pilgrimage at the

French Marian Shrine of Lourdes. Entrusting to God's mercy all of their comrades-in-arms who died serving their countries and defending peace, Pope Francis urged Catholic members of the military to let their faith inform their service:



"The world needs you, especially at this dark moment in our history. We need men and women of faith who are capable of putting weapons at the service of peace and brotherhood."

The Pope also emphasized the need for quiet time for spiritual discernment that will allow military personnel to reaffirm with hope their vocation in prayer: "This spiritual pause at Lourdes is a time to rethink your military vocation from the perspective of faith, and of the love that every Christian must cultivate towards his brother, even his enemy."

In addition, Pope Francis urged members of the military to renew their commitment to the transformative Word of God: "Be military men and women who stand tall and proud to honor your uniform, your motto and your homeland, but who are also aware that you are part of a single human family, a family that is divided and wounded, but which Christ came to redeem and save through the power of love, not the violence



of arms.” [The full article can be accessed online via the Vatican’s website: [Message of the Holy Father, signed by the Cardinal Secretary of State, on the occasion of the 64th International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes presided over by Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher \[24-26 May 2024\] \(25 May 2024\) | Francis \(vatican.va\)](#)]

This resource packet is for anyone who finds it useful. It can be used or adapted by dioceses, eparchies, parishes, schools, chaplaincies, apostolates, movements, organizations, or individuals to plan their celebration for the Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel. It may also serve as a catalyst or inspiration for the creation and development of local or year-round resources for the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel communities.

For members of the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel and their families who are making a Jubilee pilgrimage to Rome or a pilgrimage within the United States during 2025, this packet can also serve as an aid in the preparation or experience of that trip.

Additional resources for the Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel and other celebrations can be found online at the USCCB Jubilee Year web pages: available in English at <https://www.usccb.org/committees/jubilee-2025> and available in Spanish at <https://www.usccb.org/es/committees/jubileo-2025>.

## LETTER FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES, USA

Office of the Archbishop

28 August 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy that I invite you to join the Universal Church in responding to the call of the

Bishop of Rome, Pope Francis, to participate in the Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope.

On 8-9 February 2025, the Holy Father will join in prayer with the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel worldwide, and I take this opportunity to remember and honor the members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have given their lives for our Country.

After sixteen years of ministry as the Archbishop for the Military Services, USA, I express my gratitude to the military in all six branches who have stood on the frontlines of freedom, risking everything to keep the light of liberty burning brightly at home and around the globe.

I extend an invitation to active-duty military and their families to join me in Rome, Italy for our archdiocesan pilgrimage from 5 to 11 February to participate in the activities organized by the Holy See and to live moments of prayer in a truly universal setting during this historic Holy Year. Having lived nineteen years in the Eternal City, I can assure you that it is a remarkable place. For more information about the pilgrimage package for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA please visit: <https://www.milarch.org/jubilee-of-the-armed-forces/>.

Invoking Divine Protection on our U.S. Armed Forces, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,



(The Most Reverend) Timothy P. Broglio  
Archbishop of the Military Services, USA  
President, United States Conference of  
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## SUGGESTIONS FOR PILGRIMAGE PREPARATION

One major element of the Jubilee celebration for Catholics is making pilgrimage. For some, that may involve going to Rome, where international pilgrims traditionally visit the Holy Doors of the four great basilicas (Saint Peter, Saint Paul Outside the Walls, Saint Mary Major, and Saint John Lateran). For most others, though, local Jubilee pilgrimages can be made to diocesan or eparchial cathedrals, churches, or other religious sites.

*If headed to Rome for the Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel:*

Should you or your ministry/group/community decide to travel to Rome, in particular for the Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel (February 8-9, 2025), the following may be helpful:

- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has prepared an information guide in preparation and participation for the Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope. You can access the USCCB's guide via the following link: [Jubilee Information Sheet.pdf \(usccb.org\)](#).
- The USCCB's Jubilee 2025 guide includes a Jubilee Mobile App, a digital app for mobile devices, which makes the registration for Jubilee events easier and can be downloaded from the App Store for iOS and from the Play Store for Android. The mobile app is available in six languages.
- Join the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS), and Verso Ministries on February 5-11, 2025, for a pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel. This is an opportunity to be transformed by the beauty and universality of the Catholic Church during this historic Holy Year. This handcrafted journey invites you into a prayerful, authentic, and joyful encounter with the centuries-old practice of Jubilee pilgrimages. Visit the seven traditional pilgrim churches, enter through the Holy Doors, and embrace the Holy Father's call to be pilgrims of hope. For additional information, cost, and registration visit the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA's webpage: [Learn more about the Jubilee Pilgrimage](#).
- Other dioceses and eparchies might wish to coordinate their own pilgrimages to Rome for the Jubilee celebrations. For official registration of diocesan or eparchial pilgrimages and large groups for the Jubilee, designated persons should contact [pilgrim@iubilaeum2025.va](mailto:pilgrim@iubilaeum2025.va) and communicate the dates of the intended pilgrimage and the estimated number of participants. Staff from the Vatican Dicastery for Evangelization will respond accordingly. PLEASE NOTE: The USCCB is NOT coordinating any U.S. event activities in Rome during the Jubilee Year, nor is the USCCB coordinating any official national delegation to Jubilee events.
- Smaller groups can organize a pilgrimage on their own or through a licensed tour operator who specializes in religious travel. The latter option may cost extra, but it can save a local organizer time; additionally, those operators may have existing connections with vendors and may be able to advise on travel concerns. PLEASE NOTE: The USCCB does not endorse nor identify any licensed tour operator as the official U.S. tour operator.



- The official [schedule](#) for Jubilee events of the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel are as follows: (All details are subject to change. The times listed are local to Rome [CET/CEST]).

**Saturday, February 8**

8:00 AM to 6:00 PM - Jubilee rites  
 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM - Spiritual and cultural events throughout the city of Rome

**Sunday, February 9**

10:00 AM - Mass with the Holy Father

- Pilgrims and groups may also consider additional activities when traveling, either planned on their own or events hosted by organizations, apostolates, other episcopal conferences, or movements.
- Prepare for the trip with liturgies, retreats, devotional and service experiences, community building, catechesis, and fundraising, as needed. Take time for prayer, especially with the Blessed Sacrament.
- Practical travel preparation will be essential, especially since the Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel (and other Jubilee events in 2025) in Rome are expected to draw very large crowds. This particular event will also take place in winter, so it is important that pilgrims dress appropriately for cold weather knowing that at night temperatures can reach below freezing.
- Pilgrims should bring backpacks, comfortable shoes, appropriate winter clothing, necessary medications and supplies, and resources that aid in pilgrim prayer. Packing light is essential.

- After returning home or to the United States, take time for prayer and theological reflection on the graces of God received during the pilgrimage to Rome. If you went as a group, continue to gather in the weeks and months following the trip to support one another and coordinate missionary actions.

*Additional Pilgrimages to Lourdes, France:*

- The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS) and the Knights of Columbus will sponsor its annual [Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage](#) for wounded warriors and their families, in conjunction with the 65th International Military Pilgrimage. The Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage will be held on May 13-19, 2025. The Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage allows non-wounded, wounded (physical, mental and/or moral injuries), ill or injured U.S. military personnel to travel from the United States and Europe to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France. There, they will participate in the 65th International Military Pilgrimage’s events, which include an international opening ceremony, special Masses, visits to the famous healing baths at Lourdes, a Unified Sports Challenge, and a candlelight vigil that draws tens of thousands annually. All information regarding the Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage, related videos, and required [application](#) will be available on the pilgrimage website. Applications for the 2025 Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage will be available on **September 15, 2024**. Please note that all applications must be completed and submitted by **January 15, 2025**, to be considered for the 2025 pilgrimage. For questions email [lourdes@kofc.org](mailto:lourdes@kofc.org) or call 203-800-4857, 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM ET, Monday-Friday.



- The [65th International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes](#) will take place in Lourdes from May 16 -18, 2025. This pilgrimage is a unique occasion for service personnel to come together in uniform while participating in a series of national and international events. In a sense, they act as ambassadors for their country and their service, engaging with senior political, military and ecclesiastical figures from across the world. For application to this pilgrimage contact the Knights of Columbus at [lourdes@kofc.org](mailto:lourdes@kofc.org); you have to be a part of a nation’s delegation in order to participate in this pilgrimage. For more information and videos of past pilgrimages, visit: [The International Military Pilgrimage - Diocese to the French Armed Forces \(dioceseauxarmees.fr\)](#).
- The Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage and the 65th International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes are expected to draw very large crowds, and they will take place during the month of May. While the month of May is considered pleasant and warmer with nights slightly cooler, it is important that pilgrims recognize causes, symptoms, and support for dehydration, sickness, and heat exhaustion should they arise.
- If interested in visiting the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France individually, go to the sanctuary’s website, which provides information on pilgrimages and events throughout the year at [Sanctuaire Notre-Dame de Lourdes - Land of healing of body and soul \(lourdes-france.com\)](#) and for reservations [reservation@lourdes-france.com](mailto:reservation@lourdes-france.com).

*If coordinating a local pilgrimage within the United States:*

It is highly recommended to make pilgrimage to one’s own diocesan or eparchial cathedral or other churches or sites designated by the diocesan or eparchial bishop.

- For pilgrims who cannot travel to Rome, bishops around the world are expected to designate their cathedrals or a popular Catholic shrine as special places of prayer for the Holy Year, offering opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences and other events intended to strengthen and revive the faith. The USCCB will be sharing ideas on how to develop these “stateside” local events, which will be posted online as more information becomes available. Check regularly the USCCB’s website for updates at <https://www.usccb.org/committees/jubilee-2025>.
- [Pilgrimage and Memorial Mass](#) will be held on May 18th, 2025, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Honoring the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces, particularly those who paid the ultimate price for American liberty, the Memorial Mass begins with the posting of the colors and singing of the National Anthem. It concludes with the playing of Taps. Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, Archbishop for the Military Services, USA and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will be the primary celebrant. The information for the 2025 Pilgrimage and Memorial Mass has not been posted yet. The pilgrimage’s website will be updated in the coming months.



- A unique pilgrimage opportunity is the Father Kapaun Pilgrimage – The Kansas Camino, held on May 29-June 1, 2025. Each year at the beginning of summer hundreds of pilgrims walk 60 miles through the plains of Kansas to the hometown of Servant of God Chaplain (Capt.) Emil J. Kapaun (April 20, 1916 – May 23, 1951). Pilgrims do it not only to remember the heroic Catholic priest and Army chaplain who is on the path to sainthood but to discover the true meaning of their own unique paths to sainthood. Registration for this pilgrimage begins on March 4, 2025. This pilgrimage is made possible by donations. A small donation in the amount of \$50.00 per person is required to cover food, gas, and other needs. For more information, please contact Scott Carter at [carters@catholicdioceseofwichita.org](mailto:carters@catholicdioceseofwichita.org) and visit Father Kapaun Pilgrimage’s website for more information at [Pilgrimage | Fr. Kapaun \(frkapaun.org\)](http://Pilgrimage|Fr.Kapaun(frkapaun.org)). Prayer cards, booklets, and Medal of Honor Cards are available at <https://frkapaun.org/contact>.
- Dioceses, eparchies, and local communities may wish to coordinate a domestic Jubilee pilgrimage to Catholic sites and destinations, in conjunction with the Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel in Rome (February 8-9, 2025) or at some other convenient time.
- Things to consider for all pilgrimages would include:
  - Before embarking on the local pilgrimage, consider taking time for prayer and community-building similar to the type of spiritual preparation one would take for an international journey (i.e. to Rome or World Youth Day).
  - Prepare with a walking pilgrimage within or around the parish, campus, or local community, in particular if the journey to the cathedral or other major site involves some walking. In fact, consider adding a walking component if one is not naturally part of the program, as the spirituality of physical movement is a key ingredient to a spiritual pilgrimage.
  - After returning home (even if the trip was local), take time for prayer and theological reflection on the graces of God received during the pilgrimage experience. If you went as a group, continue to gather in the weeks and months following the trip to support one another and coordinate missionary actions.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR CELEBRATING THE ARMED FORCES, POLICE, AND SECURITY PERSONNEL LOCALLY

### *Suggestions for Parishes*

- Use the weekend liturgies on either February 1-2 or February 15-16 to recognize all the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel in the community: in the homily, general intercessions, with a special blessing, or by inviting the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel to serve in key liturgical roles. An example of a petition for the Prayer of the Faithful might include:

*For Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel in this parish and in our community: that they may always remain close to Christ and that they be kept safe from all harm, we pray to the Lord.*



- Have a reception or networking activity after all weekend Masses on either February 1-2 or February 15-16. During those gatherings, offer food and drink, opportunities to meet-and-mingle, and invitations to deeper faith engagement.
- Host a Jubilee prayer service, held at the parish at some point between February 10 and February 16, that recognizes all Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel in the community, their gifts, and their contributions to society and to the Church.
- Use the Jubilee celebration as an opportunity to engage the wider parish community and parish leadership in the accompaniment and evangelization of the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel. This can include hosting small group conversations based on Pope Francis' teachings or inviting key leaders in the community to a reception or dinner dialogue with Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel in the local area, including those who are both active churchgoers and those who are less active in the practice of the Catholic faith.
- Plan a local pilgrimage for the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel to a diocesan/eparchial cathedral or to another religious site or church in your area, using the ideas laid out in the previous section.
- Invite active churchgoing Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel in your parish to engage in "acts of hope" during the Jubilee Year, which can include visits with marginalized communities, evangelizing outreach to those who are disaffiliated from the Church, and/or engagement with their families on issues of faith.
- Discuss with your parish priest the need of inviting a Catholic chaplain to your parish to concelebrate a Mass on a Sunday. Announce the name of the Catholic chaplain in the Sunday's bulletin and mention the opportunity to receive a special blessing if you are part of the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel.
- Make your parish "Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel friendly" by acknowledging, honoring, and thanking those who are currently serving or have served in the Armed Forces, Police, or acted as Security Personnel and make known that their service is appreciated.
- Reach out to military families during separations. Pastoral calls will alleviate stress when a family member is gone.
- Reach out to deployed soldiers. Send the weekly parish bulletin, or a handwritten note to let them know they are not forgotten.
- Invite parishioners to join chaplains and Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel to community events, academy graduations, law enforcement family events, and promotional and award ceremonies.
- Organize a volunteer group in your parish who could visit Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel at the hospital or home. Accompany them by praying the Rosary together and meditating on the Scripture of the day.
- Organize and promote in your parish inclusive fun activities for those Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel who have been hurt in the line of duty, such as bingo, culinary challenges, a raffle, board games, singing contest, or any other social activity where the whole parish community could participate in creating a stronger Catholic identity.



- Organize a Charity Gala in your parish, a walkathon or a 5k to raise funds to help the [Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA \(AMS\)](#) to continue its mission of evangelizing the United States Armed Forces. This includes more than 220 installations in 29 countries, patients in 153 V.A. Medical Centers, and federal employees serving outside the boundaries of the USA in 134 countries. Numerically, the AMS is responsible for more than 1.8 million men, women, and children. Promote the AMS “Give” webpage: [Donate - Of all the sacrifices our service members make, their faith should not be one of them \(milarch.org\)](#).
- Livestream or replay videos of key Jubilee events (e.g., Opening Mass, Vigil, or Closing Mass) taking place in Rome between February 8-9 at one or more Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel gatherings held at the parish (noting the time difference between Rome and your local area). You may also consider coordinating at the parish during the livestream viewings liturgies, Eucharistic adoration, confessions, catechesis, service projects, small groups, or social activities.

#### *Suggestions for Dioceses and Eparchies*

- Celebrate a liturgy or host a prayer service aimed at the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel at the diocesan/eparchial cathedral between February 8-9, concurrent with the Jubilee celebrations happening in Rome.
- Hold a diocesan/eparchial-wide Jubilee walking pilgrimage for Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel from the cathedral (or another site of your choosing) to religious sites, churches, [Arlington National Cemetery](#) in Washington, D.C., and/or to a Catholic-led social services center or institution. Consider also inviting the diocesan or eparchial bishop on this journey.
- Post stories about Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel, and ministry leaders accompanying them on the diocesan or eparchial website, social media channels, and communications (magazine, newspaper, newsletter, etc.) prior to and/or during the Jubilee for the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel in February 2025.
- Host a diocesan/eparchial-wide Jubilee gathering for Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel with the diocesan/eparchial bishop. This can be a presentation, dialogue/discussion, meet-and-greet social, meal, liturgy, and/or a virtual event, allowing those across the diocese/eparchy to engage with their episcopal shepherd.
- Encourage all diocesan/eparchial offices and departments to feature, celebrate, or acknowledge Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel during February 2025, centered around the global Jubilee celebrations. This might need to be preceded by a workshop or meeting with diocesan/eparchial staff to coordinate efforts.





- Inaugurate a diocesan/eparchial initiative for Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel beginning with the Jubilee celebrations. This might include an area-wide evangelization effort (for example, around key moments of return for military personnel such as Ash Wednesday); an annual award/recognition ceremony; an annual liturgy with the bishop; scholarship funds for college or graduate students; or an annual pilgrimage, etc.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & DOCUMENTS

- [Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA](#): The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA was created by Pope Saint John Paul II to provide the Catholic Church's full range of pastoral ministries and spiritual services to those in the United States Armed Forces.
- For spiritual support for families during deployment, police officers, and security personnel, the Knights of Columbus Catholic Information Service (CIS) Publication Catalog provides information on three series of booklets that CIS has available on the Catholic faith. The three series of booklets are the [Building the Domestic Church Series](#); the [Veritas Series](#); and the [Luke E. Hart Series](#). The *Building the Domestic Church Series* contains booklets that focus on issues for Catholic families seeking to build up and strengthen the church at home. The *Veritas Series* is a series of booklets that touch on different areas of the Catholic faith (faith, prayer, morality, sacraments, scripture). The *Luke E. Hart Series* booklets cover the principal elements of the faith and are based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church first issued by Pope St. John Paul II in 1992. Please

note, the *New Evangelization Series* is not available at this time. The series is currently undergoing revisions.

- Supporting service members with deployment preparation, the Knights of Columbus offers the [Faith Formation Correspondence Study Course](#): The purpose of the course is to provide some basic information about the Catholic faith. The course confines itself to the more important matters and does not pretend to be an advanced or complete course in Catholic theology. It provides a start for Catholics who wish to review Church teaching, and for non-Catholics who wish to learn something about the Catholic Church.
  - The course is informal in the sense that it is built around ten booklets which were written precisely as booklets rather than as course lessons, and which are sent in five mailings. These booklets are arranged in logical sequence so that they provide a series of readings in the basic beliefs of Catholics. Each lesson comes accompanied by a Lesson Summary and Questionnaire booklet and a test sheet, which is based on the material in the corresponding lesson. Questions are prepared for each of them and are returned for correcting. At the successful completion of the course, participants will receive a certificate of completion. This course is offered confidentially and free of charge.



- The Knights of Columbus are offering the same course in an online format. Please visit the [Faith Formation Course](#) for more information.
- **Armed with the Faith** is a Catholic handbook for active-duty military personnel who seek a practical resource for reflection and prayer. The “military version” is printed to fit in the pocket of a soldier on heavy-duty paper with a spiral binding. The handbooks are in high demand; therefore, priority is given to military members who are deployed. Catholic chaplains should request copies from the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA and provide the following information: quantity desired, complete shipping address, phone number and e-mail. Chaplains should distribute the handbooks to those they serve. Other requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. **Armed with the Faith** is available to military personnel free of charge through the generosity of the Knights of Columbus. The “military” version is distributed by the Military Archdiocese. Please contact the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA to order the “military version” of the booklet at [info@milarch.org](mailto:info@milarch.org).
  - The “home edition” of [Armed with the Faith](#) is printed on standard paper, to meet the high demand for copies from military families, veterans, Knights of Columbus, and other interested parties. The “Home Edition” booklets are also distributed freely upon request, though donations are welcome to defray the cost of printing and mailing. To request copies of the booklet **Armed with the Faith - Home Edition** (#364) write to [cis@kofc.org](mailto:cis@kofc.org) or call (203) 752-4267. This version is available to

all who request it. Please visit the Knights of Columbus website to see a listing of all the items they offer at [www.kofc.org/shopcis](http://www.kofc.org/shopcis) or at [www.kofc.org/cis](http://www.kofc.org/cis). Please note that all Knights of Columbus’ materials are offered free of charge for military personnel.

- **“Into the Breach”** series: These series of videos offer great video and program content that serves to evangelize and form Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel, and their families in the Catholic faith.
  - Into the Breach 1: [The Mission of the Family trailer](#)
  - Into the Breach 2: [The Catholic Family in a Post-Christian World | The Mission of the Family](#)
  - Into the Breach 3: [Marriage: The Foundation of the Family | The Mission of the Family](#)
  - Into the Breach 4: [The Gift of Children | The Mission of the Family](#)
  - Into the Breach 5: [Healing in the Family | The Mission of the Family](#)
  - Into the Breach 6: [Creating a Legacy of Faith | The Mission of the Family](#)
- **Knights of Columbus COR Program:** The mission of Cor Program is to refocus Catholic men on Jesus Christ and to form and strengthen them in faith and virtue through a brotherhood committed to prayer, formation, and fraternity. The goal of each Cor gathering is to provide the opportunity for men to encounter Christ, to pray together, to be formed in their faith, and to strengthen their bonds of brotherhood, preparing them for courageous leadership and the mission of evangelization for their families and communities. For additional information visit [www.kofc.org/cor](http://www.kofc.org/cor).



- The Knights of Columbus also developed the “**Everyday Heroes**” video series (3 seasons) highlighting individual Knights who embody what every man of faith should aspire to in terms of living out their faith with courage and a commitment to charity:
  - Season 1: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dhS0o-trLj4YwukwAK8U0goRNmQOVrQ>
  - Season 2: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dhS0o-trLjD9oRtocCCHlqa6wcMIOK8>
  - Season 3: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dhS0o-trLgzzbyRjtHBttzOypLKPcQI>
- The Eucharistic Revival: Videos to use to help you, and your council, deepen your devotion to the Eucharist: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dhS0o-trLg\\_gY6bTemjad9OWb-cx1CK](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dhS0o-trLg_gY6bTemjad9OWb-cx1CK)
- Documentary films: The Knight of Columbus produced documentary films that are worth watching for personal edification: <https://www.youtube.com/@KnightsOfColumbus/search?query=Documentaries>
- [Ascension Press](#) presents the truth and beauty of the Catholic Faith as the path to a fulfilled life and authentic happiness. Ascension Press shares valuable resources, create powerful media, and build communities to answer the longings of the human heart with the transformative power of the Gospel. From [Bible studies](#) to [sacramental prep programs](#), to [Q&A-style books](#) and [free online videos](#), everything is focused on the encounter with Christ.

#### *Letters and Articles:*

- Letter of the Holy Father Francis to Msgr. Rino Fisichella, President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, for the Jubilee 2025: [Letter from Pope Francis \(iubilaeum2025.va\)](#).
- Letter of the Holy Father Pope Francis to the people of Ukraine, nine months after the outbreak of the war, November 24, 2022: [Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis to the People of Ukraine Nine Months after the Outbreak of the War \(24 November 2022\) | Francis \(vatican.va\)](#).
- Apostolic letter Salvifici Doloris of Pope St. John Paul II on the Christian meaning of human suffering: [Salvifici Doloris \(February 11, 1984\) | John Paul II \(vatican.va\)](#).
- Speech of Pope St. John Paul II to the bishops and laity of the International Military Apostolate, Saturday, June 21, 1986: [Speech of Pope John Paul II to AMI \(1986\) - Apostolat Militaire International](#)
- Honoring our Military Chaplains, a USCCB article: [Servants of Church and Country](#).
- A USCCB article on Saints: [Saints](#).
- Of Medal of Honor winners and saints article by Sister Mary Ann Walsh, 2013, USCCB’s blog: [Of Medal of Honor Winners and Saints](#).
- An article by Father Captain Michael J. Parisi, Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy, USCCB: [United States Naval Vessels Named for Catholic Military Chaplains](#).



## KEY SAINTS

### *Holy Military Companions*

- **St. Michael the Archangel (feast day September 29)**, patron of the military in general. Being an archangel, St. Michael is particularly honored by the Air Force and airborne divisions of the ground troops. Army paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, NC, complete the "[St. Michael's Jump](#)" every year in honor of their patron saint.

### *Army*

- **St. Sebastian (c. AD 255 - c. AD 288, feast day January 20)**, a Christian Roman soldier who became a captain in the Praetorian Guard, the emperor's personal bodyguard. When Emperor Diocletian discovered Sebastian's faith, he ordered him to be pierced with arrows, but incredibly, this did not kill him. Sebastian returned to challenge the emperor for his cruelty to the Christians, at which point he was cudged to death.
- **St. George (3rd century - 303, feast day April 23)**, patron saint of England and Catalonia. When George was old enough, he was welcomed into Diocletian's army. On February 24, 303 A.D., Diocletian, who hated Christians, announced that every Christian the army passed would be arrested and every other soldier should offer a sacrifice to the Roman gods. George refused to abide by Diocletian's order. Diocletian ordered George's execution. In preparation for his death, George gave his money to the poor and was sent to be tortured. On April 23, 303 A.D., George was decapitated, and his body was sent to Lydda for burial.
- **St. Joan of Arc (1412-1431, feast day May 30)**, patron saint of France and soldiers. St. Joan of Arc is one of the heroines of France and is revered as a holy person for her faithfulness and courage, which she displayed in battle, but even more acutely in her trial and execution.
- **St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556, feast day July 31)**, founder of the Society of Jesus, or the Jesuits, Ignatius of Loyola was a former soldier from Spain. He founded the Jesuits in 1540 as an effort to counter the effects of the Protestant Reformation by the promotion and defense of the teachings and authority of the Church across Europe. Ignatius also developed his Spiritual Exercises, a model of prayer still used today.
- **St. Maurice (3rd century AD – 287, feast day September 22)**, a Roman soldier from Egypt who eventually led the entire Theban Legion. He and his men were all Christians and were martyred together when they refused to worship the Roman gods. St. Maurice is particularly honored by infantry units.
- **St. John of Capistrano (1386-1456, feast day October 23)**, Franciscan priest and patron saint of jurist and military chaplains, as well as the namesake of two Franciscan missions, one in Southern California and the other in San Antonio, Texas.
- **St. Martin of Tours (316 or 336–397, feast day November 11)**, a patron saint of France, father of monasticism in Gaul, and the first great leader of Western monasticism. A conscientious objector who wanted to be a monk; a monk who was maneuvered into being a bishop; a bishop who fought paganism as well as pleaded for mercy to heretics. St. Martin of Tours, one of the most popular of saints and one of the first not to be a martyr.



### Marine Corps

- **St. Barbara (mid-3rd century - late-3rd century, feast day December 4)**, a virgin-martyr and the patroness of both Army and Marine artillerymen. Her own father martyred her out of hatred for her Christian faith, and legend says that lightning struck him as divine punishment—hence the connection to artillery.

### Air Force

- **St. Joseph of Cupertino (1603-1663, feast day September 18)**, Franciscan priest and patron saint of aviators because of his habit of levitating during prayer. The life of this saint was marked by ecstasies and levitations. The people flocked to him in droves seeking help and advice in the confessional, and he assisted many in living a truly devout Christian life. However, this humble man had to endure many severe trials and terrible temptations throughout his life.
- **Our Lady of Loreto**, also the patroness of aviation and air travelers, since it is said that the Holy House of Loreto—the Holy Family’s home—was carried by angels to Italy. Optional Memorial on December 10.

### Navy

- **St. Brendan the Navigator (5th-6th century, feast day May 16)**, an Irish monk who traveled by sea to spread the faith and monasticism in other lands. He is the hero of the early medieval legend *The Voyage of St. Brendan*, in which he and his companions embark on an epic sea adventure to find a promised land of the saints.

## ON THE PATH TO SAINTHOOD

- **Servant of God Chaplain (Capt.) Emil J. Kapaun (1916-1951)** was a U.S. Army chaplain who gave his life in the service of his fellow-soldiers when they were captured by Chinese forces in the Korean War. He died in a prison camp in 1951 and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. His body was identified recently and returned to his home state of Kansas. Read Father Kapaun’s bio at [Chaplain \(Capt.\) Emil J. Kapaun | Medal of Honor Recipient | U.S. Army.](#)
- **Servant of God Rev. Lieutenant Joseph Verbis Lafleur (1912-1944)** was a Roman Catholic priest and a heroic United States Military chaplain who died as a Japanese prisoner of World War II. On September 5, 2020, the Diocese of Lafayette in Louisiana, led by Bishop John Douglas Deshotel, officially opened Father Lafleur’s cause for beatification and canonization. Read Father Lafleur’s bio at [U.S. Bishops Conduct Canonical Consultation on Cause of Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God Joseph Verbis Lafleur, Diocesan Priest | USCCB.](#)
- **Servant of God Vincent Robert Capodanno (1929-1967)**, was a Marine chaplain who was killed in action in the Vietnam War and is a Medal of Honor recipient. Read Father Capodanno’s bio at [Father Capodanno Biography -Archdiocese for the Military, USA \(milarch.org\).](#)



## PRAYERS

### Prayers for the Military

These prayers are courtesy from the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, at [Prayers for the Military - Archdiocese for the Military, USA \(milarch.org\)](http://Prayers for the Military - Archdiocese for the Military, USA (milarch.org)).

#### Prayer to One's Guardian Angel

*Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom his love commits me here.*

*Ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.*

#### Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel

*Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle,*

*Be our protection against the malice and snares of the devil.*

*We humbly beseech God to command him, And do thou, O prince of the heavenly host, By the divine power thrust into hell Satan*

*And the other evil spirits who roam through the world*

*Seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.*

#### Prayer in Time of War

*God our Father,  
Maker and lover of peace,  
To know you is to live,  
And to serve you is to reign.  
All our faith is in your saving help;  
Protect us from men of violence  
And keep us safe from weapons of hate.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### Psalm 23 - The Lord is my shepherd

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.*

*He makes me lie down in green pastures;*

*He leads me beside still waters;*

*He restores my soul.*

*He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.*

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;*

*For you are with me;*

*Your rod and your staff – they comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;*

*You anoint my head with oil;*

*My cup overflows.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,*

*And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.*

#### Prayer for Military Chaplains

*Heavenly Father, bless and protect Military Chaplains and fill them*

*with the joy and courage of their vocation as personal ministers of*

*Christ in preaching your word and nourishing us with the Sacraments.*

*Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



## St. Patrick's Breastplate

*May the strength of God guide me this day,  
and may his power preserve me.*

*May the wisdom of God instruct me; the eye of  
God watch over me; the ear of God hear me;  
the word of God give sweetness to my speech;  
the hand of God defend me; and may I follow  
the way of God.*

*Christ be with me, Christ before me,  
Christ be after me, Christ within me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ at my right hand, Christ at my left,  
Christ in the fort, Christ in the chariot,  
Christ in the ship,  
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of  
me,  
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks  
to me.  
Christ in every eye that sees me.  
Christ in every ear that hears me.*

## Prayer for Our Troops

These prayers were extracted from the USCCB's website at [Prayer for Our Troops | USCCB](#)

**Priest:** *Let us pray for our brothers and sisters  
as they go forth with courage and  
determination to face the forces of violence,  
weapons of destruction and hearts filled with  
hate.*

**RESPONSE:** *THROUGH THE DARKNESS BRING  
US TO THE LIGHT.*

**Deacon or Reader:** *For our Commander-In-  
Chief, President N.N., and our political and  
military leaders that they may tirelessly seek  
peaceful settlements to international disputes;  
we pray to the Lord:*

*That the Lord may preserve the members of  
our Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Air  
Force from all harm; we pray to the Lord:*

*That even in war, we may keep clearly before  
us the defense of all human rights, especially  
the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of  
happiness; we pray to the Lord.*

*That the families, relatives and friends of our  
military members may be strengthened in  
this time of concern and anxiety; we pray to  
the Lord.*

*That the Lord may help families with men  
and women in the armed forces to cope with  
daily challenges in the absence of their loved  
ones; we pray to the Lord.*

*That our homeland will be preserved from  
violence and terrorism; we pray to the Lord.*

*That the nations of the world will seek to  
work together in harmony and peace; we  
pray to the Lord.*

*That the hearts of all men and women will be  
moved to pursue true peace and justice; we  
pray to the Lord.*

*That violence may be overcome by peace;  
that weapons of destruction be transformed  
into tools of justice, and hate give way to true  
charity; we pray to the Lord.*

*That grateful for and inspired by those  
veterans who have given their lives for our  
country we may bravely face the challenges  
ahead; we pray to the Lord.*

**Priest:** *Lord God, Almighty Father,  
creator of mankind and author of peace,  
as we are ever mindful of the cost paid for  
the liberty we possess,  
we ask you to bless the members of our  
armed forces.*

*Give them courage, hope and strength.  
May they ever experience your firm support,  
gentle love and compassionate healing.*



*Be their power and protector, leading them from darkness to light.  
To you be all glory, honor and praise, now and forever.  
Amen.*

### **Active-Duty Military - Blessings for those leaving for or returning from deployment**

These blessings were extracted from the website of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington: [Veterans Support - Archdiocese of Washington \(adw.org\)](http://Veterans Support - Archdiocese of Washington (adw.org)).

When parishioners are being deployed, consider a special blessing of them before the final blessing at Mass. The following prayers may be used and adapted as needed.

- *O God, you led your servants Abraham and Sarah from their home and guarded them in all their wanderings. Guide this servant of yours, N. Be a refuge on the journey, shade in the heat, shelter in the storm, rest in weariness, protection in trouble, and a strong staff in danger. We give you thanks for him / her: bind us together now, even though we may be far apart. Grant this through Christ our Lord. (Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers).*
- *All-powerful and merciful God, you led the children of Israel on dry land, parting the waters of the sea; you guided the Magi to your Son by a star. Help these, our brothers and sisters and give them a safe journey. Under your protection let them reach their destination and come at last to the eternal haven of salvation, through Christ our Lord. (Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers)*
- *May almighty God keep you from all harm and bless you with every good gift. Amen. May he set his word in your heart and fill you with lasting joy. Amen.*

- *May you walk in his ways, always knowing what is right and good. Amen. And may almighty God bless you all... (Book of Blessings, Ch. 67)*

(When parishioners are returning from deployment, consider a similar prayer and blessing.)

### **The Jubilee Prayer**

The Jubilee Prayer is available in twenty languages at [Prayer \(iubilaeum2025.va\)](http://Prayer (iubilaeum2025.va)).

*Father in heaven,  
may the faith you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and  
the flame of charity enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken  
in us the blessed hope  
for the coming of your Kingdom.*

*May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the  
Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within  
both humanity and the whole cosmos in  
the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth, when,  
with the powers of Evil vanquished, your  
glory will shine eternally.*

*May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.  
May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.*

*Amen.*

