



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
222 North Seventeenth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

September 2020

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

The Archdiocese for the Military Services was established by Saint John Paul II in 1985 to provide a full range of Catholic pastoral ministries to those in the United States Armed Forces.

The mission of the Archdiocese is to “serve those who serve” by offering pastoral care to Catholics serving in the U.S. Military, enrolled in the nation’s service academies, undergoing treatment at any of the 153 Department of Veteran’s Affairs’ Medical Centers in the United States, Puerto Rico and Guam, working in civilian jobs for the federal government beyond U.S. borders, and the families of these populations. The Archdiocese and its priests and deacons are responsible for pastoral service to approximately 1.8 million Catholics. However, unlike a conventional diocese, the Archdiocese has no parishes or parish registries and no weekly collections. It relies solely on the generosity of private donations to support its programs and services.

Last year, Pope Francis told military ordinaries from around the world that “The role of military chaplains is to accompany and support [those in need] on the journey, to be a comforting and brotherly presence for them all.” Your support of the Archdiocese for the Military Services will bring the Gospel, the sacraments and other forms of spiritual support to men and women who serve our country and defend our freedoms, including many individuals and families who hail from our own Greater Philadelphia region.

The collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, which was to be conducted during Lent but was postponed due to the suspension of Masses, will now be conducted in your parish on the weekend of September 26, and 27, 2020. I ask your continued prayers and generous financial support for this important collection.

Gratefully and with best wishes in Jesus Christ,

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.
Archbishop of Philadelphia