



## Diocese of Palm Beach

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Office of  
THE BISHOP

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November 11, 2011

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

I write to you on this Veteran's Day on a matter that involves the welfare of the men and women who serve our country in the military services. Some of them are your family or friends. They have made a selfless sacrifice in serving in the military here in the United States and around the world. As you can imagine, they need pastoral care during their military careers when they are so far from home.

The Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS) brings the sacraments, faith formation and other ministries to the 1.5 million Catholics serving in the armed forces, their families, students at military academies, and veterans in VA Medical Centers. The AMS has no territorial borders, nor do they have parishes or weekly collections to fund their mission.

After almost ten years of war, the burden on military chaplains, troops and families is extremely heavy, and the resulting need to respond with more programs, strengthened religious education, and, of course, more priests to serve as chaplains, is imperative. Currently, nearly 30 seminarians are studying in a co-sponsored seminarian program at a projected cost for the AMS of \$1.5 to \$2.0 million dollars over the next five years.

Clearly, there is great reason to support the mission of the AMS as it faces great challenges. Therefore, I have agreed to the request of the Most Reverend Timothy Broglio, Archbishop of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, to assist with a one-time Special Collection to take place in each of our diocesan parishes on November 19/20, 2011. Your financial contribution to the AMS is one way to ensure that our military personnel continue to have the spiritual support they need. Your prayers for our brothers and sisters in the military and those who provide their support are critical as well.

For more information about the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, please go to [www.milarch.org](http://www.milarch.org).

With gratitude for your generosity and with every prayerful wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerald M. Barbarito  
Bishop of Palm Beach

**Note to Pastors:**

**Please publish this letter in the parish bulletin or have it read at all Masses on the weekend of November, 12/13, 2011.**