



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

October 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing to ask for your prayerful support for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS), as part of the Diocese of Grand Rapids participation in the 2019 Triennial National Collection on November 9-10.

The AMS was established by Saint John Paul II in 1985 to provide the Catholic Church's full range of pastoral ministries to those in the United States Armed Forces. The mission of the Archdiocese is, "*Serving Those Who Serve*," providing the same pastoral care and services as any other Catholic diocese to Catholics serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, enrolled in U.S. Military Academies, undergoing treatment at any of the 153 Department of Veterans Affairs' Medical Centers in the U.S., Puerto Rico and Guam, working in civilian jobs for the federal government beyond U.S. borders, and the families of these populations. This includes members of our own diocese.

While the salaries and retirement of military chaplains are paid for by the government, the AMS receives no funding from the military or the government in support of programs and services vital to the mission and ministry of its mission, including *Vocations, Evangelization and Catechesis, Sacramental Records, Tribunal and Veterans Affairs*.

Unlike a conventional diocese, the AMS has no parishes or parish registries. The AMS has no weekly collections and relies solely on the generosity of private donations to support its aforementioned programs and services.

Your support of the 2019 Triennial National Collection for the AMS 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 parishioners and families from your own parish family.

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity.

With gratitude and prayerful best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ David J. Walkowiak

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids