



# DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

*Office of the Bishop*

January 3/4, 2026

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 Triennial National Collection on **January 10/11, 2026**.

Saint John Paul II established the AMS in 1985 to ensure that the Catholic Church's full range of sacraments and pastoral ministries remains available to those in the United States Armed Forces. The Archdiocese seeks to ensure that Catholics serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, enrolled in U.S. Military Academies, receiving care in any of the 153 Department of Veterans Affairs' Medical Centers, working for the federal government overseas, and the families of these populations receive the necessary pastoral care and services. Members of our own diocese have benefited from this pastoral care.

The AMS does not receive financial support from the military or the government for its programs and services, including sacramental preparation, vocations, evangelization and catechesis, Tribunal and veterans affairs.

Unlike a conventional diocese, the AMS does not have a parish and cannot take up weekly collections to sustain its ministries. Service members and veterans depend on the generosity of Catholics like you as they defend our freedoms and face constant transition and uncertainty.

Your support of the Triennial National Collection will bring the Gospel, the sacraments, and vital pastoral care to the men and women who serve our nation. Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak  
Bishop of Grand Rapids