



ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES, USA
The Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio

21 September 2022
St. Matthew, Evangelist

Dear Father,

Next May the annual International Military Pilgrimage (PMI) to Lourdes will take place from 9 - 15 May 2023. This event, which began as an effort to foster reconciliation between the opposing factions of the Second World War, has become a truly international celebration of our Catholic faith and an intense moment of prayer for peace.

The formal events of prayer, liturgy, and military tradition are coupled with informal exchanges in the sanctuary and throughout the quaint city of Lourdes, which allow all military pilgrims an opportunity to share culture, exchange military insignia and keepsakes, and deepen the unity in faith which surpasses national boundaries.

Once again US participation in the PMI will be sponsored only by the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, and the Knights of Columbus. No other group represents the US in this endeavor. US Pilgrims and military chaplains are welcome from around the world. In a particular way, wounded and disabled warriors are encouraged to come to Lourdes -- a place where healing is common.

There is an important void for you to fill. The pilgrimage needs priests to serve as chaplains both in Lourdes and on the flights with wounded warriors from the States to Lourdes. I invite you to consider either organizing a group from your installation or serving as a chaplain to a group of wounded warriors. Your ministry is an important part of this significant annual endeavor.

I ask you, dear Brothers, to spread the word about this important ecclesial event in your installation. Furthermore, if you know of a wounded warrior battalion where there is no Catholic priest, let the wounded know about this possibility. Wounded warriors who qualify and a care-giver companion will be invited to participate in this pilgrimage at minimum or no expense.

Also, please encourage your faithful to volunteer to assist the Knights of Columbus in bringing the wounded warriors to the sanctuary at Lourdes or simply to come as pilgrims themselves. It will be an unforgettable experience.

Please consult the link on the AMS website, <https://www.milarch.org/u-s-military-personnel-including-wounded-ill-and-injured-invited-to-apply-for-warriors-to-lourdes-spiritual-journey/> for additional information regarding this important initiative.

With every good wish for your important ministry, I remain

Fraternally in Christ,

(The Most Reverend) Timothy P. Broglio
Archbishop for the Military Services, USA