

# The Chaplains Say Thank you!

## Edition # 27

### Mid-June 2024 to Mid-June 2025

I am writing to ask if you have any boxes of rosaries that you could send us as some of our supplies were sent to Camp Pendleton by staff at MCRD. I am copying this email to our supply specialist so that she can be aware that I have reached out to you. 5 or 6 boxes would be very good and then RP1 xxx can contact you if we need any more in the future. Many thanks for the wonderful ministry you are involved in. The new recruits so appreciate the gift of these rosaries!! . . . Dear RP1 xxx, Would you kindly let both Julie and me know the status with regards to rosaries? Always best to have more than less. Thank you. . . .

Thanks, as always. I shall be retiring 1st week of June. I am hoping they will find another contract priest! Best wishes and thank you so much for your help. Fr. Michael. . . Thank you for your kind call and continued support of our young recruits. Pentecost Sunday will be my last Mass with the recruits. I fly to Rome the next day and, after a few weeks, I will be visiting England with my two older brothers. The contract people have yet again messed things up. They haven't even published the contract yet, but I understand that there are one or two people who are interested. We expect a new contract priest to be appointed by late August. In the meantime, the best referral I can give you is the 2nd Battalion chaplain who will be covering Masses, etc. for me until the new contract priest is assigned. I will ask RP1 xxx to give you a call. Her mobile number is: xxxxxx, but the person who has taken over for supplies is RP Austin xxxxxx. His mobile is: xxxxxx and his email is [xxxxxx@usmc.mil](mailto:xxxxxx@usmc.mil). It might best to contact him first. Peace in Christ,-- *Fr. Michael Booth, MCRD Catholic Priest & Marriage and Family Therapist, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA*

*Note: After more than a decade of dealing with Fr. Michael (and I, myself, having been married to an Englishman), I will personally miss Fr. Michael's British wit and sarcasm (which you perhaps detected, reading between the lines above?). Born in Italy, the son of a British Officer and a "seriously Catholic" French mother who enrolled their boys in a Catholic boarding school in England while the parents served all over the former British Empire as it was being dissolved, Fr. Michael quips, "That's how I acquired this ridiculous accent!" I am confident that the military families Fr. Michael counseled over the years will miss him, too.*

Chaplain Service would like to request 25 rosaries for our Veterans if they're available. *[We wrote to ask if he meant 250 instead of 25 since we had sent him a large order of assorted colors for all the armed services a few months before. We said we would be happy to send a repeat shipment--if that was what he wanted. We also explained that, because we ship in USPS Priority Mail flat rate boxes that hold many more rosaries than 25, we like to ship full boxes so as not to waste postage money.]* . . . Yes, please re-send the order above. We are getting really low on rosaries and Veterans have been asking about them. As to colors, honestly, I don't think our Veterans mind very much what color. Can we just have a mix of the colors that are available? . . . OOPS! I just found a big box that had several other boxes of rosaries in it! So we don't need any more rosaries right now. Can you please send me the website to order them? I've lost the link on my computer for some reason. . . I'll follow up with you when we need to place another order. . . We have enough for just approximately two to three weeks, so please send more. Thank you. *I have the distinct privilege of serving those who served first. --Andrew Hester, PSA - Chaplain Services †, OKC VAHCS Oklahoma City, OK*

I came home from church yesterday and what a lovely surprise I had waiting for me! As soon as I opened the box, I had tears running down my face. The contents of the package overwhelmed my heart. I was so overcome with joy by your parishioners and the Ranger Rosary volunteers. The handouts, especially those in Spanish, will be a delight to our Soldiers. I may have to give them out sparingly, as there are so many Spanish speakers and so little Spanish material that we are able to

come by, Every Sunday, I have soldiers ask me for Spanish Bible's or prayer cards in Spanish. I will gladly accept any handouts, medals, prayer cards, etc. that you are willing to donate to us. Unfortunately, religious services are always the last to get funding, which means they are minimal at best. Handouts and sacred items go quickly, so I truly appreciate anything your parish or any other parish would be willing to donate, and in return, if I can do anything for you, please let me know! I am always willing to send photos of my handsome husband in uniform and speak of our journey in faith 😊. Again, I pray that the Lord is with you and all your volunteers, keeping you all safe, and that our most precious Mother is wrapping you all in the comfort of her arms. --Elizabeth Reyes, Contract Specialist (Catechist), MICC Fort Leonard Wood, MO

Thanks for sending the Rosaries. They will certainly be put to good use! Even the non-Catholic Trainees want them! What a great way to evangelize! . . . Good Afternoon! We are good for Rosaries for the rest of this year. We send all the Trainees home [for Christmas] in the next week or so. Happy to receive any Rosaries you want to send for the coming summer surge!! I have not heard from or seen Elizabeth [Reyes, above] for weeks. I just keep praying for her! Thanks for the prayers for her and her family! --Stephen D. Cotter, CPT, CH, Senior Catholic Chaplain and our own ArchBalt military chaplain, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO, recently transferred to Ft. Sill, OK.

[Note; Elizabeth Reyes, Fr. Stephen's catechist, had to take family medical leave and subsequently resign to be with her very ill son at an out-of-state treatment hospital. Please keep them both in your prayers. Also, please pray for Camryn Frey, the 2 ½ year old granddaughter of one of our most stalwart Ranger Rosary volunteers, Peg Mitchell. Camryn is being treated in Virginia for a rare form of kidney cancer. She has been on our parish prayer list on and off for months.]

My name is Michael, and I am an Active Duty Army Chaplain. I heard recently about an opportunity to coordinate with you on an order for rosaries. If possible, I would really appreciate the following:40 Rosaries - Green Chord/Black Beads. Thank you for all that you are doing to support our Soldiers! --Chaplain Michael Borders, Fort Bragg, NC 28307 Note: We got him to take a full box to share with others..

Have you mailed any rosaries? I am on the last box. Thanks, many blessings. Mike . . . I know it is a bit long, but here's a great story. If you do not have time now, save it or print it for later. I hope it gives you a few moments of God's love. [The story IS too long to recount here, but here's the moral, as Mike put it]: 'I shall pass this way but once. Therefore, any good that I can do or any kindness that I can show, let me do it now, for I shall not pass this way again.' This prayer is powerful and there is nothing attached. Prayer is one of the best gifts we receive. There is no cost but a lot of rewards. Let's continue to pray for one another. God bless and have a nice day! 'Father, I ask you to bless my friends, relatives and e-mail buddies reading this right now. Show them a new revelation of your love and power. Holy Spirit, I ask you to minister to their spirit at this very moment. Where there is pain, give them your peace and mercy. Where there is self-doubt, release a renewed confidence through your grace. In Jesus' precious name; Amen.' GOD BLESS YOU, MY FRIENDS! --Miguel Diaz, Sacristan at the Chapel at Fort Leonard Wood, MO for 25 years who is filling in as our contact since Fr. Stephen left recently for a new assignment at Ft. Sill, OK.

Greetings from Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina, Reaching out to request Rosaries for Marines and Sailors on board our installation. We have (2) large training commands, as well as 7,500 personnel. Not sure how many you can send, but we're request 450 Marine and 50 Sailor Rosaries. Thank You, --Chaplain Mike Beasley, MCAS New River, NC

I trust that you are doing well this the feast day of St. Dionysius and Saint Julie Billiart. We have finally exhausted our supply of rosaries, and I was wondering if you would be able to send me some more. If you were to send say three boxes of two hundred each, or two boxes with 250 each, of black or brown, that should set us up for at least two months if not more. Would that be ok? We have been handing out 4675 rosaries to our Marines and Veterans in the last 18 months. Thank you for being a

part of that. Thank you so very much! God Bless, Semper Fi! *Making a Difference by Touching Hearts and Changing Lives.--Angela Sharpe, PMP President, Colonel Jerry W Marvel Auxiliary Columbiettes, Council #13488, North Carolina State Advocate*

To: Jeremi C\_Wodecki, MAJ USARMY (USA)  
FROM: Archer, Charles CIV USARMY (USA)  
SUBJECT: Free Catholic Rosaries

4/9/2025 7:49 AM

Fr Jeremi, Surprise, Surprise; I am still around. (But Invisible.) 😊 FYSA: The Priority Mail white boxes that I gave you with the different colored rosary beads or the boxes that are in your REC Office or Catholic Coordinator Office was given to us by a great woman by the name of Mrs. Julie Walton and her team. I have copied her in this email. Her phone number is 443-831-0217. If you need more rosaries, all you need to do is send her an email. Stay Safe and Stay Healthy, Charles (Retired)

*Note: We only knew this man for 20 years as "Mr. Charles," another dear soul we shall miss talking to regularly, who provided civilian support at Hunter AFB, Savannah, GA.*

This is CH Cho, serving as a chaplain in 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, Fort Liberty, NC. It's no surprise most of my unit paratroopers are keeping your rosary on them before they jump in the air! Now, it's getting almost given out. (I have 5-6 rosary only) So, If you don't mind, would you provide another package? The brown & green rosaries are good (no pink or white ones please). Thank you and God Bless You! . . . Just received a message from my Brigade staff duty. I really appreciate your thoughtful actions reaching out to me. The address that I gave you was the official address that usually accepts packages. Let me share my personal address. Once again, thank you for what you're providing us. God bless you and thank you for your quick reply. (that's FAST!!) . . .

Yes, it's better to have more! Currently we have about 3000 paratroopers under 3 BCT (Panther Brigade) and going JRTC together. Once we come back around mid-OCT, I can start to share to my sister units. Note : Camouflage color preferred due to the current unit mission [at the Southern Border]. We will be the first response unit starting this November (IRF1: Immediate Respond Forces, 2hr recall, 18hr deploy to anywhere in the world). *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"* - *Philippians 4:13* --*CH Euy Suk Cho, 82nd Brigade Support Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Liberty, once again, Fort Bragg, Fayetteville, NC*

I work at the VA San Diego Healthcare System in the Chaplain Service. I am the new Chaplain ASA and the previous Chaplain ASA gave me your information to order rosaries for our veterans here at the VA. I was wondering if you guys are still offering rosaries and able to send some here. Please let me know if you guys do and what information you will need. Thank you for your time. . . .Just wanted to let you know we received the orders and want to thank you for all the items! Very nice things that I'm sure the Veterans will enjoy! Thanks again, God bless. . --*Mariah Pepi, Chaplain Administrative Support Assistant, VA San Diego Healthcare System, CA*

I'm the Religious Affairs NCO, from 21st BEB over in Fort Campbell. I was wanting to confirm if you still provide free rosaries to US military. [We wrote back, "Yes, we do! How many would you like and in what colors?" ] 90 of the black and tan, if you are able to send that many. [We offered more to get our money's worth out of the postage cost of USPS Priority Mail flat rate boxes.] Absolutely! That would be perfect!, Thank you so much for your support! --*SGT. Wyatt A. Bledsoe, Religious Affairs NCO, 21st Brigade Engineer Battalion (Rak Solid), 3rd Brigade Combat Team (Rakkasan), 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, KY*

Students seem to appreciate a range of colors so I think a mix would be best. I don't think we will need 200 per month but maybe 200 every other month instead. . . .Thank you again for reaching out. We would love some more Ranger Rosaries. Please let me know what you need from me. . . . Would it be possible to get another shipment of Ranger Rosaries? Three or four boxes should hold us over for a while. Thank you for your support. RLTW! . . . . --CH (CPT) Garrett A. Cardinet, Battalion Chaplain, 5<sup>th</sup> Ranger Training Battalion, Camp Merrill, Dahlonge GA, "Now therefore give me this mountain..." Josh. 14:12 Note: Dahlonge is the site of the mountain portion of Ranger Training.

I am a chaplain at Maxwell AFB. How do we go about ordering some rosaries from you all? I give out about 50-100 rosaries a month to the students that are passing through the base. We are training base. If we can do a 2x a year order that would be ideal. Can I get 500 rosaries to start with or however many will fit in the two boxes? You can send them to the base address in my signature block.--Steven T. Wichern, Ch, Maj, USAF, Chaplain, 42d Air base Wing, Maxwell AFB, AL

Thank you so much for your reply and your continued support to our Armed Forces. Any of those colors work with us! If we could request to do quarterly large box shipments that would be amazing. As the State Chaplains Office supports over 45 Chaplains in Army NG, Air Force NG, and the State Defense Force and over 15,000 Soldiers we go through quite a bit of religious items of all faith backgrounds. We appreciate all you do for us. . . . Thank you so much for everything you sent us! I received the package today and wanted to make sure to thank you and your team for your work to provide Soldiers and Airman with the religious items needed to maintain their walk with God even while they are serving. We cannot express enough the gratitude the State Chaplain's Office has to be able to rely on organizations such as yours to continue to help Soldiers and Airman. Thank you for all you do. *Pro Deo Et Patria – For God and Country*--SGT John Owen, Full-time Religious Affairs NCO, Joint Force Headquarters, State Chaplains Office, Columbus, OH

It is about that time of the year again. Are you still in the ranger rosary business? ["Yes!" we said.] . . . Glad to hear! I still have some leftovers from last year, but if I could get 10 brown beads, 10 black beads, and 10 navy beads, that would probably do the job for me. . . . Thanks again for your help. . . . Apologies for not reporting sooner, but the package arrived safely. Thanks again. I believe we have all of our ducks in a row for this weekend! --Brad Sharpless, K of C Organizer of Veterans' Day Celebration for many years at the Sacred Heart Church, Glyndon, Reisterstown, MD

Hello, I am the Battalion Chaplain for 350 Mountain Infantry Soldiers in the Vermont Army National Guard. I am also the Catholic Chaplain for 150 Cadets at Norwich University. My Soldiers are always asking me for Rosaries, but I never have enough to give them. Plus, the ones that I do end up having on hand are usually old/discarded, so they are definitely not of the caliber that my Soldiers require with their difficult movements/missions. If you could send us any Rosaries we would be ever so grateful! Thank you so much and be assured of my prayers for you. In Christ,--Fr. (CPT) Scott Gratton "Out of suffering have emerged the strongest of souls." – Fr. (CPT) Emil Kapaun, a great Korean War Chaplain who is on the way to being declared a Saint!



**Thank you for your Support of our Ranger Rosary Ministry  
At the Pastorate of Resurrection/St. Paul !  
Please pray for our troops and the chaplains who serve them!**

