

The Chaplains Say Thank You! #23

Short Version -- Mid-July 2020 to Mid-July 2021
This past year has been like none other. We have been busy . . .

Helping the New York National Guard during COVID Relief

I would like to order 200 Ranger Rosaries for the New York Army National Guard State Chaplains Office. Thank you for what you do. Our Soldiers will greatly appreciate these. . . The Ranger Rosaries were a huge hit with our Soldiers. Would it be possible to order another 200? Colors can be black, green or brown. Thank you very much. --SGM Roy Sayward, Chief Religious Affairs NCO, NY-JFHQ-MNCH Latham, NY

Yes, Ma'am, we could use more, especially as Lent approaches. If you can send to this [Poughkeepsie address], as I'm currently supporting the COVID-19 relief efforts. This is the hotel where I'm located during the pandemic. Thank you so much! May the peace and love of God surround you! . . . All colors are fine, including the white OLoLs. Thank you so much! --James "Seoulja" Kim, Chaplain (MAJ), NYARNG, 138th Chaplain Detachment, 53rd Troop Command Chaplain [Since March 2020, we've sent 1000+ rosaries, including many Our Lady of Lourdes (OLOLs) to the NY Guard.]

Glad you received our coin. Chaplain Kim, our state chaplain, designed it. The one side represents the Army chaplain corps insignia. The other side represents Chaplain (Father) Francis Duffy. He was one of the most decorated chaplains in the Army's history. He served with the 42nd Infantry Division during WWI. His statue is in the center of Times Square. Thank you all again for your support. SGM Roy Sayward, Chief Religious Affairs NCO, NY-JFHQ-MNCH Latham, NY

Supporting Ranger School with Routine Shipments

I am the new Battalion Chaplain for the Mountain Phase of Ranger School. We have a lot of students who are in a tough spot due to the challenges they face. I have had many requests for rosaries and so am asking you to send me some to distribute. We generally have 200-300 students each month and many are Catholics. I would definitely appreciate 100 or so to start out and then possibly request more as needed. Thank you for whatever you can contribute. I definitely appreciate your service to our nation's warriors! . . . I am not picky on the color! (mix?) I'll hold off on asking for a monthly box until I get a good grasp on the demand. . . Hi! The Ranger Rosaries have been a big hit and we are almost out. Can we get another box and get put on a schedule? I anticipate going through a box every other month if that is possible. We really appreciate it! Thank you!! --Chaplain Joseph Kumor, Camp Merrill, Dahlonaga, GA

Keeping the Navy Well Stocked at Home and Abroad

A big thanks to you all for the rosaries you provide to us at RTC Great Lakes (Navy Boot Camp). With around 1500 new recruits every week, your support has been fantastic. God bless, --Fr. Jim Hinkle, contract priest, Lake Bluff IL

I have been extended here in Japan until just before Christmas, and then I PCS to the states to take over with the 2ND Marines. Thank you for reaching out. Many of our ships have been stocked with rosaries, thanks to you all, and I still have about 6-8 boxes left. I think we should be good to go until our new priest arrives, and I will pass along your information so he can contact you if he needs to. The Ranger Rosary program has been instrumental in helping to bring a renewal of faith to so many of our sailors here in Japan. They are wildly popular, and we love the colors and how strong they are. They are all we use here at the Chapel of Hope, during our weekly rosary on Wednesday evenings, our nightly chaplet that is live-streamed, and even our CCD program (teaching the children how to say the rosary). Thank you so much to all the helpers who make this program what it is. You all are truly working in the vineyard willingly...and it shows. Please give my blessing to your entire team. We will be offering a mass for you all in the coming days. Many blessings! *Vocati Ad Servitium*--Rev. Jason C. Burchell LT, CHC, USN, COMFLEACT Yokosuka Japan

Spreading Our New Air Force Alternative Color around the Globe

Aloha! Thank you so much to you and your volunteers for being so dedicated to serving our Lord and helping our communities. We are truly blessed to have you. The colors for the new Air Force rosaries that you created for us are so bright! Exactly what we need right now! I am sure that our parishes will be happy to see and use them. May you and your team stay safe and may God be with you.--Ok Cashdollar, Liturgy Coordinator at JB Pearl Harbor/Hickam, HI [Ok picked out the neon blue beads and white cord and crucifixes we used to represent blue skies and white clouds over Hawaii].

Thank you for your prayers, for thinking of me and those I am called to serve, and for asking about our need for rosaries. Beginning this weekend, we will be kicking off the Month of the Rosary with an encouragement to the faithful (in-person and those checking in via Facebook Live). Our Religious Education Coordinator, Mr. Jeff Fox, will be leading this effort. I will let him be in touch with you to see about a new stockpile of rosaries for Aviano. I've asked the organist to play the

Salve Regina at the end of each Sunday Mass. I led the Rosary this past Saturday during our celebration of the Madonna di Loreto (Patroness of the Italian Air Force). Our stockpile of extra rosaries was pretty low. I distributed quite a few this past Spring during our national COVID-19 Lockdown. We had a virtual (Facebook Live) rosary each week. With COVID numbers back on the rise who knows what the situation will bring. In all cases, a daily rosary is an ideal spiritual practice. May God continue to keep us in His love, --*Father David McGuire, Deputy Wing Chaplain, Aviano Air Base, Italy*

We received your wonderful package full of rosaries and other goodies. Thank you so much - it was a wonderful present to our military community here in Aviano. I love the blue and white rosaries as well as the nice additions you included. And it is still October so we had a wonderful community rosary before Mass yesterday. Please pass on our thanks to all of your volunteers for their efforts. . . . We had a successful rosary distribution on Sunday but still have a decent supply left. However, if you could spare 50 to 75 that would be great. Some "Italians" (your Hawaiians) would be great! Thanks again for thinking of us. All the best in your wonderful apostolate! --*Jeff Fox, RE Director, Aviano Air Base, Italy*

I am actually at another assignment at the same base since we last spoke. I have received a lot of positive feedback from the Rosaries and am running low. To that end I'd greatly appreciate another order of Air Force blue rosaries if you are able to send them. . . . I'd say a USPS medium sized box would be appropriate. I'd like the rosaries with the new beads please. I'll call them "Floridians" since we were in Panama City, FL. I don't know that I have enough of an idea of when I'd need them next to put an order in for the next time. I'd say either semi-annually or I can re-order. Whatever is best for you. Thank you for your faithfulness in ministry. --*Ch, Maj Rudy Olivo, First Air Force Chaplain Corps, Tyndall AFB, FL*

Keeping Military Parish Community Volunteers Busy Making Packs during the Pandemic

Thank you for the 500 half black and half brown you sent last summer. I've made packets with them. We are good for spring and summer. Our troops are still locked down for service in our gym. But father distributes the packets during small unit Sunday Masses. He has 5 Masses on Sunday. There are a few volunteer priests that help. I'm not allowed to be with them, so I feel like I'm on vacation on Sundays. --*Ann (Tonita) Costello, Parish Community Coordinator, Ft. Jackson, SC (Home of the US Military Chaplaincy Training Program)*

Our rosary guild at Fort Sill truly appreciates your generous shipments of supplies. They are all used very quickly! We hand out over 400 rosaries a month to our continuous rotation of young army men and women. So as many as you would like to send would be amazing. I promise they will all find good homes! --*Amber Carter, Pastoral Life Coordinator, St Barbara's Catholic Military Community, Ft. Sill. OK*

Praying for West Coast Marines Threatened with Cut-Backs

I am still here despite attempts by people who shall remain nameless attempting to cancel the contracts of Catholic Priests up and down the West Coast! Many thanks for the Rosaries – they are sorely needed – thank you for sending them! May God Bless the wonderful volunteers making them! --*Fr. Michael A. Booth, S.T.L., LMFT, KHS. Catholic Priest & Board Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, Catholic Ministries @ Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA*

It's good hearing from you. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, resulting in Marine quarantines and the closure of the chapel, I haven't distributed a rosary in almost a year. I still have a full box of your Rosaries at the chapel, waiting for the quarantine to be lifted but who knows when that will happen. Thank you and all the Rosary makers for your dedicated ministry, and I pray that I'll be able to minister to the Marines soon with Mass and Rosaries. Blessings, --*Fr. Jack Sewell, contract priest from Mission Viejo helping at Camp Pendleton, CA*

Following Up with an Old Friend Who Volunteers at the VA Hospital in Nashua, NH

August 2020--Thank you so much for checking in on me! My ongoing recuperation from my February 2018 major surgery continues with some setbacks followed by some forward progress. Chronic neuropathic pain from head to toe presents a challenge, but I refuse to take opioids to provide relief. . . . I am in the process of beginning to set up more face-to-face meetings at the VA. I am finding through video conference chats with other disabled veterans who are confined at home that feelings of anxiety, depression, fear and hopelessness are being encountered with more frequency and need to be addressed promptly. Peer intercession is often quite effective in remedying these conditions. This is where Ranger Rosaries really hit the mark! Accordingly, here is my long overdue order: 90 blue and gray; 90 brown and green Army camo; 90 black and green Rangers; and 90 turquoise and white Our Lady of Lourdes specials. . . .

. . . March 2021--I keep reminding myself that there exists a reason for a certain man's being selected to suffer chronic pain that only God knows. Until I meet Him in person, I intend to carry on to the best of ability, taking each day as it comes. During Lent and Holy Week is a perfect time to reconcile one's own pain felt during life on Earth with the indescribable pain felt by Jesus as he died for our sins. I will be out and about with Ranger rosaries in my briefcase. Please feel free to send 25 of each color pattern to me at your convenience. I will make sure that they find their way into

the right hands of those curious to learn of the unconditional love of Holy Mother Mary. God bless --*Christopher Ferris, Captain MI (FMR), U.S. Army DAV, Nashua NH*

Keeping up with the "Changing of the Guard" at Several of the Biggest Bases

Our new Father is truly an amazing young priest. He is energetic, enthused and so full of the Holy Spirit. We have been meeting with him every Saturday and taking him to lunch and talking about how we can best help his ministry although from a distance. He is hoping we can return in person soon but time will tell how that goes. . . You all are truly angels and a real blessing to us, to Father McMillian, and the recruits. Seven boxes arrived today! We know Father will be thrilled when we tell him what's just arrived from you. The Spanish materials will be greatly appreciated since we really don't have any of that. Father wants everything to be just right for the recruits. We learned that now there are approximately 10,000 Catholic recruits who train at Parris Island each year. This certainly is a fertile field for evangelization. Parris Island makes them Marines and we feel it's such an opportunity to fill them with the Love that is Christ Jesus. Father has asked us to include in each packet we are making up a Ranger Rosary, a St Michael Prayer Card, a Jesus Prayer card which we get printed from Got Print and a Divine Mercy card. He would also like us to be able to include a flat engraved crucifix which could be attached to their dog tag and a medal. So we're trying to find a bulk source for crucifixes and medals. With our heartfelt thanks --*Don & Anne Brown, volunteers at Parris Island, SC [Don is a retired physician. He and Anne have been our contacts for years.]*

Thank you very much [for your congratulations on my retirement]. I will definitely stop by when I visit my family in Annapolis. Give my regards to the ladies who tirelessly produce those rosaries for our Soldiers. Yes, CH Spalla will take care of our UMTs and Soldiers and their families. Pray for all of them. "*Walk Among Them.*" Lk 24:15 -- *Fr. Andy CH (CPT) Hermes G. Losbanes, 198th IN BDE Chaplain, Fort Benning, GA, [who for many years was one of the most fervent proponents of the Rosary among all the chaplains we have dealt with. Truly a dear soul whom we will sorely miss!]*

We are doing quite well with Rosaries now and should be good until after Easter. Again, I want to thank for all you've done. I'm cc'ing Fr. Michael Palmer, our new Roman Catholic Priest. Please feel free to contact me, but I'm going to hand over coordination to Fr. Palmer. You are a blessing to us. Thank you again for all you've done. --*Michael D. Spalla CH, CPT 197th/198th IN BDE Chaplain, Regimental Chapel, Fort Benning, GA*

Thank you very much for keeping us updated -- and please give my thanks to all those who have worked so hard to make these Rosaries! Our ability to distribute these to soldiers and families has been somewhat limited in recent months; however, we do want to make sure we have plenty available when things open up a bit. . . I'm glad to hear that folks are still making these Rosaries, it's a tremendous blessing! We do have a lot of Rosaries stockpiled, but with new cycles of trainees arriving this month, we will probably get requests for more. If you'd like to send more Rosaries, here is my home address. Please let me know when you're shipping these, and how many you're sending; this will help me keep track of how many Rosaries we have on hand. Thank you again for this wonderful ministry God bless! Fr. Mike --*CH (CPT) Michael Palmer, 2-54 IN BN Chaplain, 198th BDE, Fort Benning, GA*

Happy New Year! Yes, I am still at Bragg and, YES, I could use more of your rosaries. Please send me two boxes. Thank you so much in advance! . . . Just wanted to let you know that I received your 2 boxes of rosaries. It took some time to clear the Army postal service but finally, I have it in my office. Thank you again so much! Have a blessed season of Lent! Fr. Bogie--*CH (COL) Augustyn Boguslaw, Deputy Command Chaplain, US Army Reserve Command HQ, Fort Bragg, NC*

I am Fr. Arek - we met at the Recruiting Station in Columbia MD few months ago when you brought some of the Ranger Rosaries to our office. Since then I have moved to a new assignment - I am at Fort Polk, LA where I am in charge of over 4000 Soldiers and the Catholic St. Francis of Assisi community. I would love to ask a favor - I need some of the Ranger Rosaries - black and brown. Thank you for all you do for Jesus and His people. In Jesus, --*CH (MAJ) Arek Ochalek, Brigade Chaplain, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) Mountain Patriots!*

Aloha! I'm still helping the priests at Tripler Army Medical Center. They are out of rosaries. Could you send about 300 to me for them? An assortment of whatever you have would be perfect! Our mail will stop 17 September. I will write more soon!! Busy with our move [to retirement]! . . . TAMC is Tripler Army Medical Center but don't let the name fool you. They serve all the branches of service. The Our Lady of Lourdes is a favorite there! . . . [We wrote that we could send more than 300.] Aloha! Yes, please send Fathers Hank and Father Victor Lanuevo 1,000 Lourdes rosaries along with an assortment of the other service colors. 1500 wouldn't be to many and he has plenty of storage at the hospital. You can mail them directly to his home. . . Aloha, Julie and Keahi! I'm emailing to introduce you both! Keahi is the new Catholic Pastoral Life Coordinator for USAG Hawaii! So she will be helping the Schofield and AMR Communities here on Oahu. Keahi, Julie coordinates orders for Ranger Rosaries. This is a beautiful ministry where parishes all around the USA make rosaries and send them to military soldiers and their families for free! They are passed out to the priests when they go on their missions and TDY, as well as at the new soldiers at the weekly newcomers brief on Schofield. I believe there are some currently at both chapels but due to covid and mail delays I would suggest getting 100 for AMR and 200 for MPC to

have on for any unexpected situations that come up. Julie, I'm sure you can share more about your beautiful organization and mission!! God's blessings on you both! –Tracey Harger, Retiring USAG Hawaii Catholic Community Coordinator at Schofield Barracks and Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) Chapel, Oahu, HI

We moved to NY at the end of September and have 28 acres of nature's paradise but it is cold! I'm 15 minutes from my parents and 8 minutes away from my brother and his family so we are so happy! Rick retired with 34 years of service! NY is opening up and since you have some extra rosaries on hand if you wanted to send me 500-600, I can take some to VA hospitals here in Buffalo and Springville. I'm off to church but I'll write again later! –Tracey Harger, Colden NY

Supporting National Guard Units Both at Home and Abroad

Thanks for your email and great to hear from you. I will defer to Master Sergeant Novacek for an answer as he manages our supply cage. Happy New Year! Thank you for your wonderful ministry. Best regards,-- Winn, Philip A (Buddy) COL, USARMY, Minnesota National Guard (USA)

I took a look at our inventory and I see that we're still pretty well stocked. I have your information now, so I'll let you know when it's time to reorder. Thanks for taking care of us! --MSG Bradley D. Novacek, Chief Religious Affairs NCO, Strong Bonds Program Manager, MSG USARMY NG MNARNG (USA)

Good afternoon, and thank you for reaching out to me! I actually just returned from a tour in the Middle East, where I was able to provide the rosaries you last sent me to our Soldiers there. If I could receive another shipment of rosaries that would be wonderful! 25 black rosaries and 25 brown rosaries would be great! --CH (CPT) Justin Elliott USARMY NG WVARNG (USA) Fairmont, WV

I am the Full-Time Support Chaplain for the Wyoming Army National Guard, and I manage religious supplies for the State. I would love to have a small order of these rosaries to provide to the chaplains in my state for disbursement. I don't want them sitting around unused, so just a small order for starts, please. --CH (CPT) Matthew D. Sullivan, Full-Time Support Chaplain, 115th FAB Chaplain, Wyoming Army National Guard, Cheyenne, WY

How Do I order rosaries for my deployment to Kuwait? I would like 100 brown and green camo rosaries sent to the following address please--CH (CPT) Joshua Ellis, Chaplain, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, HHC, 1-6 IN, Kuwait

Thank you for reminding me for this ministry. We are deployed. Please provide some to us at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. I hope and pray for your wellness and ministry. Please send for the Army brown. (There are some of Marines, but that's fine) 1 Large box with materials. Thank you ma'am!! --CH(CPT) Cho, Euy Suk, Battalion Chaplain, HHC, 40BEB, 2ABCT

Strengthening Family Bonds

I have a request. Before I deployed to Afghanistan my late grandmother in law Miriam Neff made me a ranger rosary before she passed which I cannot seem to locate. I was wondering if it would be at all possible to get another. I thank you for any assistance and with you all the best. Thank you so much! It was OD green with black beads. I believe she was a volunteer with your organization for a number of years before she passed. [Miriam was indeed a much-loved member of St. Mary's group in Annapolis.] -- Ross Casteel, Veteran, Spring Grove PA.

We had no idea Fr. Tyler was going to introduce her either – it was so very special, but I was already barely holding it together, so just, wow. We have not heard from her since she got to her quarantine hotel on 7/28, so from what we understand no news is good news, and that means that yes, she is now in boot camp in Great Lakes with a graduation date (if all goes well) of 9/24/2020. Unfortunately, they do not allow family to attend the graduations now due to Covid, but we can watch it live streamed. We should be hearing from her in about 2 weeks. We would greatly appreciate you putting her on your military prayer list, and a picture is attached; it was taken the weekend before she left. I can forward a picture of her in uniform once we get it. We call her Katie (or Katie Kates, or Patatie, or Dimp, or Katydid), but she went by Mary Kate at Resurrection and in college. You can add us to your prayers too – we are very proud of her, but our household is just not the same without her, and we are still getting used to that. -- Mary Kaye and Kevin Cassidy, Res Parishioners



Thank you for your Support of our Ranger Rosary Ministry

At the Church of the Resurrection!

Please pray for our troops and the chaplains who serve them