



**The National Conference of Veterans Affairs  
Catholic Chaplains (NCVACC)**

Established: 1985

Endorsement: Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA

**2021 ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**THEME: Moral Injury:**

**Invisible Wounds and The Challenges to Catholic Ministry**

**President's Message**

July 19, 2021

Dear NCVACC Members and VA Catholic Chaplain Brothers!

With God's help, we will finally have our Annual Educational Conference! The last time we had one was in October 2018, in New Orleans, LA. The planned joint conference with four other major chaplain associations in May 2020 was cancelled due to the pandemic, and with it also our chance to gather as brothers in the ministry. During that time as well, the new Vicar for Veterans Affairs, Bishop Joseph L. Coffey, was appointed. For many of us, this will be the first occasion to meet and visit with him.


Our study on the theme, *Moral Injury: Invisible Wounds and The Challenges to Catholic Ministry*, can assist us enormously in our Catholic ministry to the Veterans. The expertise of Dr. Jason Nieuwsma, PhD on moral injury, including on the integration of spirituality and health, is a valuable help for our reflection. Our very own Rev. Charles Barnes, SJ will deal with its implications to our Catholic ministry.

The pandemic has changed our lives in many ways. The uniqueness of our experience in the struggle to be resilient prompts us to share this perspective with other ministers in the field. What lessons have we learned? Where did we look for and find inspiration to tread on? How did we overcome our fears? Why is the challenge to sustain our spirit in the midst of the pandemic so arduous and tough? The workshop on our pandemic experience can hopefully allow us to share, reflect and pray together as Christ's ministers of healing.

To allow us to engage more deeply in our reflection and study is the Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center's exceptional atmosphere of hospitality, elegant and well-furnished facilities and places of worship, peace and quiet. I invite you all to appreciate what it has to offer as a spiritual center by visiting its website: <https://www.holyfamilyretreat.org/meeting-spaces>.

This is the point where the President would usually remind you that attendance in the Annual Conference is Archbishop Broglio's requirement for continued VA endorsement. But you already knew that! 😊 Instead, let express my delight at the prospect of meeting you all again, God willing, in person and in good health!

Yours truly,

  
Alejandro De Jesus, PhD  
President



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

15 July 2021

Dear Monsignor/Father,

Warm greetings from the Edwin Cardinal O'Brien Pastoral Center in Washington, DC as we observe the Memorial of St. Bonaventure.

It is time to begin planning for your participation at the required National Conference of VA Catholic Chaplains to take place at the Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford, CT from 26 – 29 October next. The theme is: *"Moral Injury: Invisible Wounds and The Challenges to Catholic Ministry."*

As you know, all full-time and part-time VA priests endorsed by the Archdiocese for the Military Services are required to attend this training event in order to enhance your professional competence and maintain your ecclesiastical endorsement. Attendance in the Conference merits continuing education credits necessary for renewal of board certification.

If you have any questions about your attendance, please write to me. While a simple e-mail will suffice: [archbishop@milarch.org](mailto:archbishop@milarch.org), I expect the motivation for any exception to the required attendance to be sufficiently serious.

The conference also represents a unique opportunity to gather as a presbyterate in service to the VA. The obligation to participate is a serious one. Each of you should have already received information about this event. This will also be an opportunity to meet Bishop Joseph Coffey, the Vicar for Veterans' Affairs.

Registration forms and details of the event are available on the NCVACC website [www.ncvacc.net](http://www.ncvacc.net). Please bring an alb, white stole and breviary with you for the Conference. Attire is otherwise casual.

Ever grateful for the important ministry that is yours and invoking abundant blessings upon you and your work with the infirm veterans and their families, I remain

Fraternally in Christ,

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



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**October 26-29, 2021**

**Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center**

**West Hartford, CT**

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM**

*(Please PRINT, FILL UP, then MAIL with Check PAYMENT)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Education & Tuition: (Choose only One)**

- \$400.00 Members, Dues Paid by 6-30-2021  
 \$550.00 Members Regular, Dues Not Paid\*  
 \$475.00 Members VA-BCC, Dues Not Paid\*  
 \$550.00 Non-Members, Full-Time\*\*  
 \$475.00 Non-Members, Part-Time\*\*

**Lodging, Meals & Extras: (Add this)**

- \$400.00 All Participants

**\$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL**

**Note 1: Special Diet Requests. Please check all that apply for you.**

- No Red Meat       Fish Only       Chicken Only  
 Gluten-Free       Vegetarian       Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note 2: Deadline for Submission of Registration and Payment: September 30, 2021. No credit card payments available. Please make checks payable to "NCVACC" and send to:**

Chaplain Patrick Fitzsimons  
1065 Ashmore Drive  
Nashville, TN 37211

*\*This includes your dues payment for the current year.*

*\*\*This amount entitles you to become members. Simply PRINT OUT the application form, FILL IT UP and SUBMIT it with the Conference payment indicated.*