

**Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio
Archdiocese for Mil Services
U.S.A.**

January 5, 2012

Dear Bishop Timothy,

I was quite surprised to receive a letter from you, since we have never had contact, and I am not a friend of the American Military. I imagine that you find it quite awkward to send out a fund-raising letter for your work at Christmastime, since the peace announced by the angels is nothing like the "peace" that the armed forces of the United States bring into the world today.

America today is losing its democratic form of government and rather rapidly turning into the kind of vicious Imperial power that Rome was at the time that Jesus lived. None of our wars can be justified morally, since they are arrogant grabs for more and more of the resources of the world to make our selfish style of life more luxurious, and leave others in abject poverty.

You point out that the country has been at war for 10 years placing a heavy burden on Catholic men and women, chaplains, and you bishop - shepherds ! Well, weeks before the president began bombing, the Pope spoke out in strong, clear language saying that going into this war would be immoral, illegal and unjust ! What did you and the chaplains say to form the consciences of our young men and women about an unjust war, what did the

bishops of US dioceses do to educate young men and women to resist enrolling in an immoral war ? Teaching them about conscientious objection to war, about nonviolent resistance to injustice and other options they have as Christians?

If you didn't do these things, then what kind of "spiritual guidance and support" are you giving our Catholic youth ? How can our church ignore the direct teachings and practice of Jesus ? Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Return good for evil. Forgive those who harm you. Christians are to follow the way of Jesus in his nonviolent love of all persons.

I have read the "Catholic" Prayer books that you distribute to our troops, which are supplied by the Knights of Columbus. They are woefully inadequate to help our youth make informed decisions of conscience . In fact they tell our Catholic young men and women not to worry, that they can trust the judgments of their superiors !

Bringing the sacraments and pastoral care to our youth, amidst a silence about the immorality of the war itself, is a sin of the clergy. As I look in vain on your website for forms that troops could use to state their conscientious objection to war, I know there is no adequate catholic pastoral counseling being done.

I can in no way support your diocese's pastoral work within the armed services. Please stop using the

misleading full-page ads of propaganda in many of our Catholic magazines, especially, America.

Your "thriving vocations program" is very scary. To think that you are directly encouraging, recruiting and training future priests that from the beginning would be formed in distortions of the nonviolent Gospel of Jesus ought to worry any Catholic community.

The one part of your work that I can support is the VA Chaplaincy. I feel great compassion for the very young men and women sent to fight in the many evil wars started by our government. It would be better if it was our congress people themselves were the ones sent to the battlefields instead of the youth we have misled, propagandized, and economically forced into giving their lives for the causes of greed, power and hatred.

The best support we could give our troops would be to bring them all home to their families. The hardships they suffer only benefits the rich. After brutalizing these youth to prepare them for killing others, and then letting so many of them be killed and wounded, our government gives them stingy and inadequate care when they return. I fully support your work to help them rebuild their lives, to help them try to achieve the fullness of life that God has called them to. Please use the donation I am enclosing , \$100., for this work of VA chaplaincy.

Jim Rauner

Sincerely in Pax Christi,

Deacon James Rauner

www.JimRauner.com

www.PeaceIstheWay.US

War is a terrible Lie.