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For information regarding the Military Veterans for Christ Inc., programs, retreats, support, and other, please contact:

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### **Military Veterans For Christ**

Representative and

**St. Mary Magdalen**

Parishioner: Ben Cardenas



Our retreat is held each year in November, around Veterans Day weekend. This year it will be **November 10-13, 2016**. The retreat is open to both male and female Veterans of all walks of faith. Please visit our website at: [www.mvfc-us.org](http://www.mvfc-us.org)

## A VETERAN’S PRAYER

All gracious God, you have given me all I am and have.

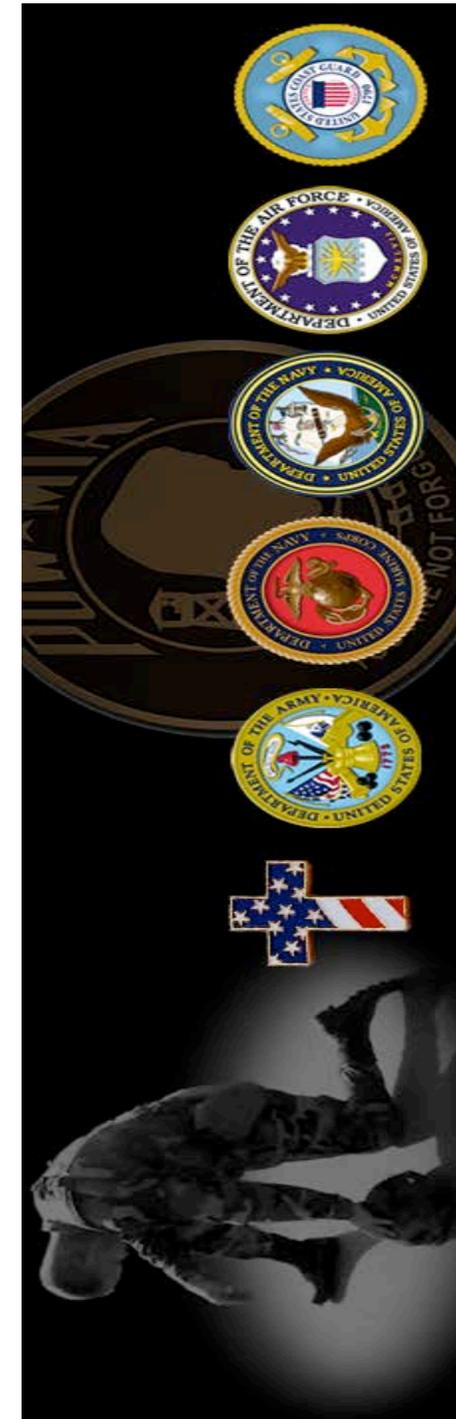
Now I offer it back to you, to stand under your will alone. I am one of many that answered the call to serve my country, and in so doing, experienced sacrifice and witnessed human suffering in fulfilling my patriotic duty.

I pray that you give me the wisdom and courage to seek, obtain and portray your merciful image to veterans who are suffering physically and mentally. Strengthen my faith that I may see you and your love in everything, and to share this reinforced faith with veterans who are longing for your divine mercy. Grant that I may be a source of refuge and peace to my veteran brothers and sisters who seek consolation and rest from their scars that we do not see.

I pray for those presently serving our country, that they be blessed with your holy spirit to protect them and guide them in America’s battle for liberty and our way of life. Comfort their families and provide them hope and courage as they await their loved ones safe return. For those families whose sons and daughters made the ultimate sacrifice, we pray they find solace in your healing embrace.

Finally, Lord, may my heart expand in love for you and all people. May it rest secure and grateful in serving those who have served and are serving the country which you have abundantly blessed. Amen.

(Ben Cardenas 2010)



*Military Veterans For Christ*



### Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide military personnel, (both active duty, reserve, inactive and retirees) with weekend spiritual retreats, access to faith formation resources, access to any and all Federal Government resources for dissemination of entitled veteran services and benefits, for involvement within their community through other activities, to develop a network of peers and for their personal healing and growth.



### History

In August of 2008 the idea of having a retreat for Military Veterans was born. A parishioner of St. Mary Magdalen had a son who was in need of conversation about his military experiences. He did not want to attend an ACTS retreat because he was leery about sharing with non-military personnel. He felt he would be more comfortable among other military members. After meeting with the pastor, Fr Joseph Mary Marshall, it was agreed that St. Mary Magdalen would become the home base for the group. January 2009 brought a committee of seven together to develop all the details of what the retreat would provide and accomplish.

Our goals were to

- ◆ Provide a retreat for all members of the military, retired and active.
- ◆ Provide a platform to rekindle the spirit of your military experience
- ◆ Provide information about services available to veterans
- ◆ Provide a safe atmosphere for personal healing, if needed, through sharing
- ◆ Provide a better understanding of religious life
- ◆ Provide a forum for prayer and contemplation
- ◆ Provide involvement in community and church organizations



**In appreciation of your military service to this great nation, we honor you and salute you...**



Military Veterans For Christ Inc. hopes to grow and build enriched spiritual relationships with fellow veterans by providing resources and assistance which will strengthen their spiritual journey with Christ and develop into a positive transformation of a life renewed.

