

THE DEACON'S BENCH

Where a Roman Catholic deacon ponders the world

Feed on Posts Comments

pathæos BOOK CLUB

Now Featuring: **SINNERS** by Greg Carey

Sign up for the Patheos Book Club Newsletter



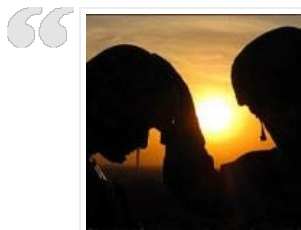
Helping soldiers keep their faith

December 17, 2010 by Deacon Greg Kandra

How can soldiers find faith and support when they're far from home?

Share 4 1 retweet

Here's one innovative answer:



The front lines are nothing like home. But for thousands of religious Americans serving their country overseas, a special MP3 player has become a friend through hard times.

The players are loaded with spiritual messages, courtesy of [The Frontline Faith Project](#).

It's like "somebody by your side to remind you that there's a higher purpose, to remind you of the hardships that others have had to endure, to make your hardships relatively small and to remind you of your core beliefs," says Lt. Loris Lapri of the U.S. Army's Second Cavalry Division.

Cheri Lomonte started the grassroots Frontline Faith effort last spring after learning that some servicemen and women can go months without having access to a military chaplain.

"The soldiers in the field ... once they get it, they want their best friend to have it too... And the feedback we are getting is: "I get to hear Mass every day" or " I get to hear these prayers."

Lomonte, a Catholic, only got her own parish — Emmaus Church in Lakeway, Texas — involved at first. But the project grew exponentially, and now nearly 7, 000 soldiers have received the MP3 players.

They include a homily, religious music, heartfelt readings and prayers. One player included a sermon from Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, the archbishop for the U.S. Military, saying, "The love of God and the love of neighbor is the same unique reality and cannot be separated"

The message provides comfort to soldiers at war. "Sometimes you'll operate in relatively remote areas with small groups of soldiers ... and the Army doesn't have enough chaplains to support each and every outpost with a chaplain," says Lapri, who has seen action in Afghanistan.

Read the rest.

And find out how you can help by visiting [the Frontline Faith website](#).

Posted in [Great links](#), [Inspiration](#) | Tagged [Chaplains](#), [Soldiers](#) | 2 Comments

2 Responses to "Helping soldiers keep their faith"

ABOUT THE DEACON

Deacon Greg Kandra is a Roman Catholic deacon serving the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York. A veteran broadcast journalist, Deacon Greg worked for 26 years as a writer and producer for CBS News in both New York and Washington. He now serves as the Executive Editor of ONE, the acclaimed magazine published by the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA). Deacon Greg has been honored with every major award in broadcasting, including two George Foster Peabody Awards, two Emmy Awards, and four awards from the Writers Guild of America.

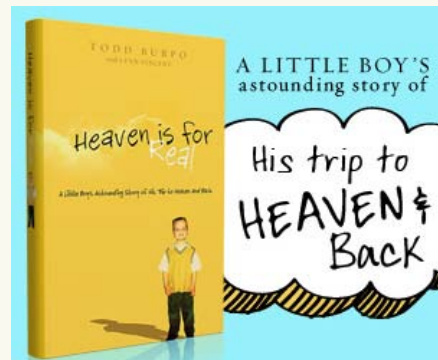


MAGNIFICENT BLOGGERS

- [The anchoress](#)
- [A Concord Pastor Comments](#)
- [A Deacon's Wife](#)
- [Deacon Scott Dodge](#)
- [Deacons Today: Dalmatics and Beyond](#)
- [In All Things \(America Magazine\)](#)
- [Whispers in the Loggia](#)

LINKS I LOVE

- [NET: New Evangelization Television \(Diocese of Brooklyn\)](#)
- ["Currents": the world's first daily Catholic news show](#)
- [New Advent](#)
- [USCCB](#)
- [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#)



1 Greg Kandra on 17 Dec 2010 at 4:13 pm

RT @TopsyRT: Helping soldiers keep their faith <http://bit.ly/gsoCmj>

2 Deacon Greg Kandra on 17 Dec 2010 at 4:13 pm

RT @TopsyRT: Helping soldiers keep their faith <http://bit.ly/gsoCmj>

[Trackback URI](#) | [Comments RSS](#)

Leave a Reply

Name (required)

Mail (hidden) (required)

Website

Spam Protection by WP - SpamFree

CATEGORIES

Select Category

WANT TO SUBSCRIBE?

Enter your email address:

Delivered by FeedBurner

TWEET, TWEET

[FOLLOW ME ON twitter](#)

RECENT POSTS

One Anglican priest's leap of faith
Ladies and gentlemen, the Dominicans
Worth a thousand words, Easter Vigil edition
Episcopalians to McGreevey: not so fast
How are vocations doing? The numbers tell the story

RECENT COMMENTS

Deacon Norb on How are vocations doing? The numbers tell the story
Frank on How are vocations doing? The numbers tell the story
kteay on Accused: Fr. Corapi placed on "administrative leave" — UPDATED
Unapologetic Catholic on How are vocations doing? The numbers tell the story
cathyf on How are vocations doing? The numbers tell the story

VISITORS

1,763,935

ARCHIVES

Select Month



Get to Know Us
About Patheos
Contact Us
Site Map
Terms of Use
Privacy Policy
Copyright 2008-2011 Patheos, Inc. All rights reserved.

I want to ...
Find/Add a Place of Worship
Get a Site Overview
Submit Feedback

Follow Patheos
Subscribe to our Newsletter
Register
[twitter](#)
[facebook](#)

Site developed by Avalon Consulting, LLC