## BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS.

As a faithful Catholic of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, I oppose this collection for the Archdiocese of Military Services (AMS). This collection gives the impression that the church takes no issue with the recent military activity of the United States, most of which has been condemned by Popes John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Francis. The U.S. military preys upon poor and marginalized people in our West Virginia communities who lack employment and educational opportunities, and our diocese's support for this collection normalizes these recruitment patterns. As followers of Jesus, we are deeply troubled by such visible cooperation with U.S. militarism on the part of our church. I pray today for all those affected by the wars of the United States, including U.S. soldiers, and for our church, that we become more deeply committed to peacemaking. Instead of the AMS, I will redirect my resources to the following recipient, which better reflects my commitment to the gospel of justice and nonviolence:

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