

SAINTS ALIVE!
MAY 30: ST. JOAN OF ARC
PATRON SAINT OF MILITARY PERSONNEL

Joan of Arc was born January 6, 1412. Her legend is based on her heroic military feats: during the Hundred Years War, Joan led French troops against the English. In 1431, she was burned at the stake for being a heretic.

St. Joan of Arc is the patron saint of military personnel.

We honor all military personnel and veterans of all services in all the Wars, conflicts and peacekeeping missions. We applaud their service.

We recognize the debt we owe to those who put their lives in harm's way.

The Archdiocese of Portland has many priests who have served in the military as chaplains or servicemen. We are indebted to them.

On Memorial Day, we especially remember those who died in active military service.

Let us also question the paths that lead governments to the "ultimate resolution": "the ancient bondage of war."

Let us acknowledge man's affinity to resolve conflict with aggression; fear with violence. Let us admit our tendency to walk the roads that reduce our options, making war seemingly inevitable and necessary.

Blessed Pope Paul VI said, "if you want peace, work for justice," he also wrote, "We believe that the idea of Peace still is, and still must be, dominant in human affairs ..."

Pope Benedict wrote that "Peace is not a dream or something utopian; it is possible."

War is human development in reverse. "All citizens and all governments are obliged to work for the avoidance of war" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2308).

Pope Francis pleaded that "**We ask the risen Jesus**, who turns death into life, **to change** hatred into love, vengeance into forgiveness, **war into peace**. Yes, Christ is our peace, and through him we implore peace for all the world."

Until we choose peace over war, let us continue to honor all military personnel and ensure that our country repays its obligation to them.

For those who continue to serve, may St. Joan of Arc keep you safe until your return.



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