

Retirement Fund for Religious

Sponsored by the National Religious Retirement Office

Fall 2017

Dear Pastor/Pastoral Administrator,

Heartfelt thanks to you and your parishioners for your support of the Retirement Fund for Religious. Proceeds from the annual collection help hundreds of religious communities care for aging members and plan for long-term retirement needs. More than 32,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests benefit.

Bishops of the United States launched the collection in 1988 to help address the profound lack of retirement funding among religious institutes. Although Catholics have responded generously, rising health-care costs and decreased income make it a struggle for religious communities to care for older members. Recognizing the continued need, our bishops have voted to renew the appeal three times—including again last year.

I understand it can be difficult to promote yet another collection, especially with many worthy causes vying for the limited resources of parishioners. **So, I ask for only one minute during Mass.** That is all it will take to read our pulpit announcement (*see page 2*) or to offer your own endorsement. Please also consider promoting the

collection in your parish bulletin or social media platforms. (*Visit retiredreligious.org after September 1 to download prepared posts.*) Given the growing use of online giving over offertory envelopes, your promotion of the appeal may be the only opportunity to make the needs of elderly religious known to your parish family.

Together, we can advance our mission to ensure a safe, modest retirement for senior religious who have selflessly served our church and world.

Gratefully,



Sister Stephanie Still, PBVM
Executive Director

Enclosure: Posters



**Please give to those
who have given a lifetime.**

Parish Campaign Resources

Please take one minute to:

Announce the collection during Mass.

Post a notice of the collection in the parish bulletin, website, or social media.

Pray for God's blessing on this year's appeal.

Note: Printed posters, bulletin inserts, and supplemental envelopes are provided to parishes at no charge to promote the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Shipments for this year's collection have already been processed, but if you would like to increase or decrease future shipments, please contact your (arch)diocesan coordinator.

Visit retiredreligious.org after September 1 to download these items and/or additional campaign images and social media resources.

National Collection Dates: December 9-10, 2017*

Pulpit Announcement/ Parish Appeal

Please read from the pulpit or include with the weekly announcements.

Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests need your help. Many served for years in Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes—often for little to no pay. Now there is a shortage in retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides funding for medications, nursing care, and more. Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Anuncios desde el púlpito/ Llamado a la parroquia

Tenga la bondad de leerlos desde el púlpito o de incluirlos con los anuncios semanales.

Las hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes católicos de órdenes religiosas, de edad avanzada, necesitan su ayuda. Por muchos años, ellos sirvieron en escuelas, hospitales y parroquias católicas—con frecuencia con poco o ningún salario. Hoy no hay suficientes ahorros para su jubilación. Su donativo al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos proporciona los fondos para sus medicamentos, enfermeros y más. Les rogamos que done a los que donaron su vida.

*Individual (arch)dioceses may choose to hold the collection on alternate dates.

Bulletin Announcements

Week before the collection

Help care for elders. “Thanks to support from the Retirement Fund for Religious, we are now in a much better position to care for our elders,” writes a religious sister. Your donation helps her religious community and hundreds of others provide for aging members and plan for long-term needs. Please give to next week’s Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

Week of the collection

Help religious communities. “Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry,” writes a religious sister. Your gift to today’s collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders!

Week following the collection

Religious give thanks. A religious sister writes, “When we see the generous response of so many thousands of persons in order to help us, religious men and women, we are left speechless.” Senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests across the country send heartfelt thanks and prayers for your donation to last week’s Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

Anuncios para el boletín

Semana antes de la colecta

Ayuden a cuidar a los ancianos. “Gracias al apoyo que da el Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos hoy estamos en una mucho mejor posición para cuidar a nuestros ancianos”, escribe una hermana religiosa. Su donativo ayuda a su comunidad religiosa, y a cientos de otras, a proveer para sus miembros de edad avanzada y planificar para sus necesidades a largo plazo. Les rogamos que sean generosos la próxima semana en la colecta para el Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos.

Semana de la colecta

Ayuden a las comunidades religiosas. “Su generosa contribución nos ayuda a cuidar a nuestras hermanas jubiladas y permite que nuestras hermanas más jóvenes continúen en un ministerio activo”, escribe una hermana religiosa. Su donativo a la colecta de hoy para el Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos ayuda a proporcionarles medicamentos, enfermeros y más a miles de hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes de órdenes religiosas, de edad avanzada. ¡Esto ayuda también para asegurar que los miembros más jóvenes puedan continuar las buenas obras de sus mayores!

Semana después de la colecta

Los religiosos les agradecen. Una hermana religiosa escribe “Cuando vemos la respuesta generosa de tantos miles de personas que nos quieren ayudar, a religiosas y religiosos, nos quedamos sin palabras”. Las hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes de órdenes religiosas, de edad avanzada, en todo el país, envían sus más sinceros agradecimientos y oraciones por sus donativos a la colecta de la semana pasada para el Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos.

Help Care for Senior Religious

Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious support more than 32,000 senior religious and their communities. Most older sisters, brothers, and religious order priests worked for small stipends, leaving a large deficit in retirement funding. Each year, proceeds from the annual collection help hundreds of religious communities furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. A portion also underwrites assistance for retirement planning and education. This support helps communities address funding challenges so they can care for elder members while continuing important ministries to the People of God.

Among other ministries, Sister Alfonsina Sanchez (*below, left*), 96, served for 18 years in what was then her community's tuberculosis sanatorium. Today, her community, the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles,

continue their health-care apostolate and serve in education and retreat ministry. Support from the Retirement Fund for Religious has helped the Carmelites provide for elderly members while developing a long-range retirement strategy.



From left: Sister Alfonsina Sanchez, OCD, and care coordinator Sister Michelle Clines, OCD, RN.



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For campaign materials, visit:
retiredreligious.org