

Retirement Fund for Religious

Sponsored by the National Religious Retirement Office

Fall 2016

Dear Pastor/Parish Administrator,

By the time our collection rolls around, I imagine you may be weary of second collections, especially given the financial needs your own parish may have. Yet please know that your support of the Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR) makes a difference in the lives of roughly 33,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who benefit from the annual appeal.

In 2015, our office distributed \$25.6 million to 395 religious communities for the direct care of senior members. Additional funding was allocated for education, consultation, and resources that enable religious communities to plan more effectively for retirement. In fact, an independent study of Planning and Implementation Assistance—our program for congregations with critical funding deficits—found that 81 percent of participants reduced their retirement shortfalls.

Despite this progress, and the tremendous generosity to the RFR, too many religious communities struggle to provide a modest, safe retirement for aging members. Eldercare costs continue to rise while the number of religious requiring care grows. So I ask you to make these needs known to your parish family. This guide offers links to downloadable tools that can be used to promote the appeal in your parish, including bulletin and pulpit announcements. Most importantly, **please endorse the collection during Mass**, either by personally encouraging support or by hosting an RFR speaker.

Joined with elderly religious and their communities, I offer heartfelt thanks for your assistance and prayers that God will bless you abundantly.

Gratefully,

Sister Janice Bader, CPPS

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Executive Director

Enc: Posters



Parish Campaign Resources

Visit www.retiredreligious.org after September 1 to download the items shown below.

Pulpit Announcement/Parish Appeal

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

Aging religious need your help. Thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests spent years working in Catholic schools, hospitals, and agencies—often for little pay. Their sacrifices leave their religious communities without adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps provide prescription medications, nursing care, and more. Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Mass Readings

December 3–4, 2016

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 11:1-10 / Rom 15:4-9 / Mt 3:1-12

December 10–11, 2016

Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10 / Jas 5:7-10 / Mt 11:2-11

General Intercessions

For elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests, that they may enjoy the dignified care they so richly deserve as they continue to devote their lives to prayer and service. Let us pray to the Lord. R/.

Following the example of the Year of Mercy, we pray especially for the elderly in our nation, that they may be treated with respect and compassion and that we as a society may more fully embrace their gifts of wisdom and grace. Let us pray to the Lord. R/.

Bulletin Announcements

Week before the collection

Your donation works for aging religious. “I read that roughly 95 percent of donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious aid senior religious,” a donor writes. “That’s wonderful when we truly want our donations to *work*.” Your gift works for elderly religious by helping to furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please support next week’s collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, and give to those who have given a lifetime.

Week of the collection

Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give generously to today’s second collection.

Week after the collection

Thank you for supporting senior religious. A sister from Indiana writes, “Because of your kindness, our elderly sisters will have the comfort, security, and joy of living out their remaining years here in their home. You truly honor them and their many years of service by your generosity.” Religious across the United States offer sincere thanks for your generosity to last week’s collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

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.

Simple Steps for Promoting the Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR)

Announce

the collection during Mass and in the parish bulletin.

Distribute

bulletin inserts and collection or direct response envelopes.

Display

RFR posters.

Invite

a religious or lay volunteer to speak about the RFR during Mass.

Share

the contributions that women and men religious make to the Church.

Anuncios desde el púlpito/Llamado a la parroquia

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

Hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes católicos de órdenes religiosas mayores pasaron su vida en escuelas católicas, hospitales y agencias de servicio social, muchas veces con bajos sueldos. Como consecuencia de aquellos sacrificios, sus comunidades religiosas se hallan ahora sin ahorros suficientes para costear la jubilación y cuidados geriátricos de los miembros. Su donativo al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos ayuda con las recetas médicas, cuidados de enfermería y más. Done a aquellos que dieron toda una vida.

Lecturas para la misa

3-4 de diciembre de 2016

Segundo Domingo de Adviento

Is 11,1-10 / Rom 15,4-9 / Mt 3,1-12

10-11 de diciembre de 2016

Tercer Domingo de Adviento

Is 35,1-6a.10 / Sant 5,7-10 / Mt 11,2-11

Plegaria universal

Por los hermanos, hermanas y sacerdotes ancianos de órdenes religiosas, para que disfruten de cuidados dignos en su vejez, mientras siguen dedicando su vida a la oración y al servicio. Roguemos al Señor. R/.

Siguiendo el ejemplo del Año de la Misericordia, rogamos por todas las personas ancianas en nuestra nación, para que sean tratadas con respeto y compasión y aceptemos más plenamente, como sociedad, sus dones de sabiduría y gracia. Roguemos al Señor. R/.

Anuncios para el boletín

Semana anterior a la campaña

Los donativos de ustedes trabajan para los religiosos ancianos. “He leído que cerca del 95 por ciento de los donativos al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos ayuda a los religiosos ancianos”, nos escribe un donante. “Es maravilloso cuando verdaderamente queremos que nuestros donativos se aprovechen”. Sus donativos se utilizan para ayudar a suministrar medicamentos, cuidados médicos y más. Sean generosos en sus donativos a la colecta de la semana próxima del Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos, que beneficia a los que han dado toda una vida.

Semana de la campaña

Los religiosos ancianos necesitan su ayuda. Estas hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes de órdenes religiosas católicas —han dedicado su vida en servicio a los demás— educaron a los jóvenes, cuidaron a los enfermos y lucharon para que los oprimidos fueran tratados con justicia. Hoy, muchos son ancianos y necesitan atenciones. Su donativo al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos ayuda con las recetas médicas, cuidados de enfermería y más. Sea generoso con la segunda colecta de hoy.

Semana posterior a la campaña

Gracias por su apoyo a los religiosos ancianos. Una hermana de Indiana escribe, “Su bondad hace posible que nuestras hermanas ancianas tengan la comodidad, seguridad y alegría de vivir sus años restantes en su casa. La generosidad de ustedes los honra a ellos y a sus muchos años de servicio”. Los religiosos por todos los Estados Unidos están profundamente agradecidos por su generosidad con la colecta del Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos de la semana pasada.

Lifetimes of Service

Each year, proceeds from the Retirement Fund for Religious underwrite financial assistance to hundreds of religious communities while supporting education and resources that strengthen retirement planning and improve eldercare. Nearly 33,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests benefit. These religious have offered their lives in service to our Church and world, ministering in Catholic schools, hospitals, parishes, and social service agencies. Many continue to serve; others are committed to a ministry of prayer and presence. Meet a few of them below.

Sister M. Susan Polchin, SSCM, 93, coached girls' basketball.



Father Michael Gantley, OSM, 91, acts as role model for members in formation.



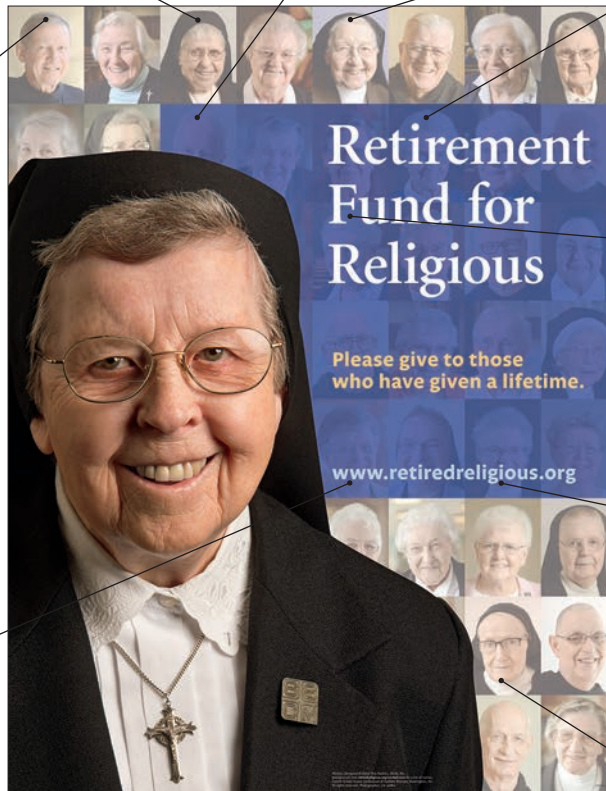
Sister Anne Mika, OCD, 92, made altar breads and still does bookkeeping.



Father Jerome Kodell, OSB, 76, served as abbot of his community for 25 years.



Sister Luanna Brucks, CPPS, 91, ministered for 30 years as a teacher and 10 years as a church musician.



Sister John Margaret Walsh, CDP, 79, spent 55 years in Catholic education.

Sister Donna Marie Ivanko, SSCM, 81, currently ministers as a preschool director.



Sister Viola Marie Spire, CPPS, 83, has been sewing altar cloths and vestments for 50 years.



Sister Margaret Kob, OCD, 89, rises at 4:30 a.m. to pray.

Sister Rita Polchin, SSCM, 87
 "Be faithful to your prayer life and have a sense of humor," says Sister Rita. This philosophy has served her well during nearly 70 years of religious life. A former teacher and principal, Sister Rita continues in volunteer ministry today.



National Religious Retirement Office

Sponsor of the Retirement Fund for Religious

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For campaign materials, visit:
www.retiredreligious.org