

Retirement Fund for Religious

Sponsored by the National Religious Retirement Office

Fall 2018

Your Eminence/Your Excellency,

Once again, U.S. Catholics responded with generous thanksgiving to the needs of senior religious and their communities. The 2017 Retirement Fund for Religious collection raised just over \$28 million, allowing our office to distribute financial assistance to 360 religious institutes across the country.

We are humbled by the love and generosity shown the collection each year, even as we acknowledge the ongoing gap between the needs of elderly religious and the funds available to support them. With an annual cost of care for senior religious that exceeds \$1 billion annually, we recognize the collection alone cannot fully address retirement funding for our nation's religious communities. Rather, proceeds help to bridge the gap—offering supplemental support for daily necessities and underwriting resources that promote enhanced eldercare and long-term retirement planning.

So I ask for your continued assistance in promoting a generous response among the faithful. Please consider distributing a letter to parishioners in support of the 2018 appeal. (Sample text is available. *See below.*) Please also encourage pastors to announce the collection and/or host a speaker during Mass.

Religious communities are profoundly grateful for the assistance the collection offers. They remain diligent in their efforts to implement comprehensive retirement strategies while serving the People of God. Thank you for your continued advocacy on their behalf.

With gratitude,



Sister Stephanie Still, PBVM
Executive Director

**Please visit
and click on the Resources bar to
download the items below.**

- **Bishop letter to parishioners**
- **Bishop letter to pastors**
- **Bulletin insert**
- **Bulletin/pulpit announcements**



Please give to those who have given a lifetime.
retiredreligious.org



Photos: (top) Sister Clare Vandecoevering, SSMO, 88;
(bottom) visit retiredreligious.org/2018photos for a list of names.



National Religious Retirement Office

Sponsor of the Retirement Fund for Religious

Conference of Major Superiors of Men • Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious
Leadership Conference of Women Religious • United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

3211 Fourth Street NE
Washington DC 20017-1194
Telephone (202) 541-3215
Fax (202) 541-3053