**2018 Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR)** [**retiredreligious.org**](http://www.retiredreligious.org)

Sample Letter for Requesting Speakers

Date

Dear (insert name),

Soon our parishes will be conducting the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection. As coordinator for the appeal in our (arch)diocese, I ask for your help in raising awareness of the needs of senior religious and their communities. Please consider speaking at a parish to promote the collection.

As you likely know, the dedication and hard work of senior religious laid the foundation for Catholic schools, hospitals, and numerous social service organizations. Many of us can recall a special sister, brother, or religious order priest whose ministry and witness had a profound impact on our lives. Most senior religious worked for little or no pay, leaving a substantial gap in retirement savings. Today, hundreds of religious communities struggle to provide adequate care for aging members.

Catholic bishops of the United States launched the Retirement Fund for Religious in 1988 to help address the shortage in retirement funding. Proceeds are distributed to eligible religious communities across the nation. Congregations combine this funding with their own income and savings to help meet ongoing retirement needs. In addition, donations support educational and consultative resources that help communities stretch retirement dollars and find new ways to deliver eldercare.

Should you accept the invitation to give a short talk, a speaker guide and other resources are available to help you prepare. (Visit [retiredreligious.org/materials](https://retiredreligious.org/materials/) and click on Resources to access.) With your assistance, we can make known the needs of our elderly religious and help parishioners remember the tremendous service that religious, past and present, have offered our Church and world. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,