

# Retirement Fund for Religious

Sponsored by the National Religious Retirement Office

Fall 2021

**Dear Pastor/Pastoral Administrator,**

Since 1988, donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection have helped hundreds of US religious communities address their retirement-funding shortages. We remain humbled and grateful for this generosity.



Please give to those who have given a lifetime.



Like you, senior religious have offered their lives in service and prayer. Most ministered for small stipends, resulting in a profound shortfall in retirement savings. Rising health-care costs and decreasing income make it a struggle for many religious communities to care for their aging members. Covid-19 has compounded an already difficult situation.

Please share these concerns with your parish family and highlight the need in your parish bulletin, e-newsletter, or social media platforms. (See pages 2–3 for downloadable resources.)

Most importantly, please announce the collection during Mass.

I recognize that your parish and parishioners may also be facing financial difficulties. Please know we are grateful for every donation, regardless of size. All gifts advance our mission to ensure a safe, modest retirement for the nation's elderly religious.

May God bless you for your goodness.

Gratefully,

*Sister Stephanie Still, PBVM*

Sister Stephanie Still, PBVM  
Executive Director

Enclosure: Posters

## Four Easy Ways to Help Elderly Religious

Choose the option or options that work best for your parish.

### 1. Announce

Use our parish appeal to announce the collection at Mass.

Download at [retiredreligious.org/materials](https://retiredreligious.org/materials).

#### Parish appeal/Pulpit announcement

Elderly religious need your help. Thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for years in Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes—often for little to no pay. Now, many religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Your gift to today's Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

#### Llamado a la parroquia/Anuncios desde el púlpito

Los religiosos ancianos necesitan su ayuda. Miles de hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes mayores de órdenes religiosas sirvieron en escuelas, hospitales y parroquias con poco o ningún pago. Ahora, muchas comunidades religiosas no tienen suficientes ahorros para su jubilación y luchan para poder cuidar a sus miembros ancianos. Su donativo hoy a la colecta para el Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos ayuda con las recetas médicas, cuidados de enfermería y más. Sean generosos.

### 2. Publicize

Insert our quarter-page advertisement into your parish bulletin.

Download at [retiredreligious.org/materials](https://retiredreligious.org/materials).



### 3. Share

Post a collection notice on your parish app or social media site(s). For parishes with audiovisual capabilities, 30- or 60-second videos, available in English and Spanish, can also be shared during Mass.

Download text and images and access videos at [retiredreligious.org/materials/#social-media](https://retiredreligious.org/materials/#social-media).



## Four Easy Ways to Help Elderly Religious, continued

## 4. Remind

Use our bilingual bulletin announcements to remind parishioners of the collection.

Download at [retiredreligious.org/materials](http://retiredreligious.org/materials).

## Bulletin announcements

## Week before the collection

**Give in gratitude.** A donor to the Retirement Fund for Religious writes, “I still remember the lessons the sisters gave us and how they instilled in us the love of our faith.” Show your thanks for the prayerful service of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Your gift to next week’s second collection helps provide care, medicine, and more. Please be generous.

## Week of the collection

**Help aging religious.** Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously to today’s second collection.

## Week after the collection

**Religious give thanks.** A sister writes, “Our prayers belong most of all to the generous benefactors whose donations have made this financial assistance possible.” Thank you for supporting last week’s Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Visit [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org) to learn how your gift supports elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

## Anuncios para el boletín

## Semana antes de la colecta

**Donen en agradecimiento.**

Un donante al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos escribe: “Todavía recuerdo las lecciones que las hermanas nos dieron y cómo nos inculcaron el amor a nuestra fe”. Muestre su agradecimiento por la devoción en el servicio de las hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes ancianos de órdenes religiosas católicas. Su donativo la semana que viene a la colecta ayuda a dar cuidado, medicinas y más. Sean generosos.

## Semana de la colecta

**Ayuden a los religiosos y religiosas ancianos.**

Las hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes mayores de órdenes religiosas católicas han dedicado su vida en servicio a los demás: educaron a los jóvenes, cuidaron a los enfermos y sirvieron a los menos afortunados. Hoy, muchos son ancianos y necesitan ser atendidos. El regalo deducible de impuestos al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos ayuda a proporcionar medicamentos, cuidado de enfermería y más. Sean generoso con la segunda colecta de hoy.

## Semana después de la colecta

**Los religiosos expresan su gratitud.**

Una hermana escribe: “Nuestras oraciones son, sobre todo para los generosos benefactores cuyos donativos han hecho posible esta ayuda financiera”. Gracias por su apoyo a la colecta la semana pasada para el Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos. Visiten [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org) para aprender cómo su donativo apoya a las hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes ancianos de órdenes religiosas.

## Looking for more resources?

Visit our website to download bilingual bulletin inserts, campaign images, web banners, and more.

[retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org)



## Support for a Lifetime of Service

A lifetime of prayer and service unites thousands of elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who benefit from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Generations of Catholics gratefully remember their ministry in schools, hospitals, parishes, and more. Most older religious served for little pay, resulting in a shortage of retirement savings. Proceeds from the annual collection underwrite financial assistance, education, and resources that help religious communities provide for aging members, improve eldercare delivery, and strengthen retirement planning.

The religious featured in the 2021 Retirement Fund for Religious campaign represent a combined total of 622 years of ministry to our Church and world.



**Sister Ursula Marie  
George, OSU, 95**  
75 years of religious life

**Father Edmund  
Smith, OSB, 83**  
62 years of religious life

**Sister Emilia Irene  
Lara, MGSps, 89**  
59 years of religious life

**Sister Theresa  
Hathaway, SSMO, 88**  
71 years of religious life

**Sister Elizabeth  
Sohler, SSMO, 89**  
71 years of religious life



**Brother James  
Bartos, OSB, 79**  
59 years of religious life

**Sister Mary Hope  
Doudard, SSCJ, 87**  
71 years of religious life

**Abbot Gregory  
Duerr, OSB, 84**  
63 years of religious life

**Sister Catarina  
Santa Cruz, SSCJ, 88**  
70 years of religious life

**Sister Mary Guadalupe  
Jumarang, OSF, 75**  
21 years of religious life

**Note:** Printed promotional materials are provided to parishes at no charge. This year's requests have been processed, but please contact your (arch)diocesan coordinator if you need to adjust future shipments.



**National Religious Retirement Office**  
Sponsor of the Retirement Fund for Religious

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For campaign materials, visit:  
[retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org)

