**2021 Retirement Fund for Religious** [**retiredreligious.org**](http://www.retiredreligious.org)

Sample Letter: (Arch)bishop to Pastors

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR) collection will soon be held in our parishes. Please join me in offering it your prayerful and vocal support.

As you consider this year’s appeal, I ask you to reflect on the role of religious in your own life. Perhaps a woman or man religious nurtured your faith and your vocation to the priesthood. Or you may have witnessed the dedication of religious serving in Catholic schools, hospitals, parishes, or social services. Many of these women and men religious are now elderly, and too often their religious congregations do not have adequate funding for their care.

In 1988, US Catholic bishops initiated the Retirement Fund for Religious to address the deficit in retirement savings among religious communities. Proceeds from the collection help communities across the country to provide for the ongoing needs of aging members.

So, I invite you to encourage a generous response to the collection. Please share the needs of elderly religious and their communities with your parishioners. Consider hosting an (RFR) speaker during Mass or make the appeal yourself.

We live in difficult times, and many worthwhile causes vie for the limited resources of parishioners. Encourage them simply to share what they can and to pray for God’s blessing on our nation’s elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.