

# Retirement Fund for Religious

Sponsored by the National Religious Retirement Office

Fall 2022

**Dear Pastor/Pastoral Administrator,**

Heartfelt thanks to you and your parishioners for your continued support of the Retirement Fund for Religious collection. We are humbled by these donations, especially when we reflect on the financial struggles many US Catholics are facing. Still, we rely on this ongoing generosity as it allows our office to distribute critical funding to hundreds of religious orders.



**Please give to those who have given a lifetime.**

The US bishops established the collection in 1988 to help address the profound shortage in retirement savings among US religious communities. Despite sustained generosity to the annual appeal, numerous communities struggle to provide for aging members. Eldercare costs continue to rise while the percentage of religious who need care grows. We are, in the end, pursuing a moving target.

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

We see God's love manifest in the prayers, generosity, and advocacy of all who share our mission to ensure elderly religious enjoy a safe, modest retirement. Joining with nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who benefit from the Retirement Fund for Religious, I pray that God will bless you and your parishioners abundantly.

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

Our second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Thousands of elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests spent years working in ministries—such as Catholic schools, parishes, and hospitals—often for little or no pay. Today, many religious communities do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your donation helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously.

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

Nuestra segunda colecta es a favor del Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos. Miles de hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes de órdenes religiosas mayores trabajaron durante años en ministerios, tales como escuelas, parroquias y hospitales católicos, a menudo con poco o ningún pago. Hoy día, muchas comunidades religiosas carecen de ahorros suficientes para cubrir las necesidades de jubilación. Su donativo ayuda a proporcionar medicamentos, cuidados de enfermería y más. Sean generosos.

### 2. Publicize

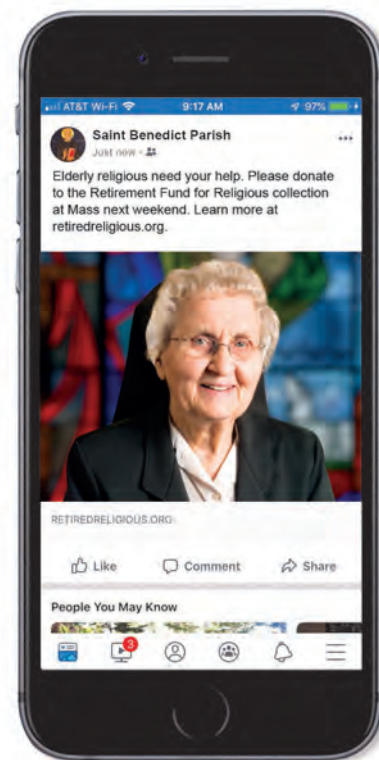
Insert our quarter-page advertisement into your parish bulletin.

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

### 3. Share

Post a collection notice on your parish app or social media site(s).

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*

**Lighten the load.** An abbot writes, “Your gift helps ease our worldly burdens and allows us to continue living out our mission of seeking God and serving the Church.” Donations to next week’s Retirement Fund for Religious collection help hundreds of US religious communities to provide for their aging members. Please give generously.

*Week of the collection*

**Help aging religious.** Senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have devoted their lives to prayer, service, and works of mercy. Most ministered for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your gift to today’s Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give generously.

*Week after the collection*

**Religious give thanks.** A sister writes, “We remember the many people who believe in the Retirement Fund for Religious, thanking them in prayer for their great generosity and compassion.” God bless you for donating to last week’s second 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*

**Aliviar la carga.** Un abad escribe: “Su donativo ayuda a reducir nuestras cargas terrenales y nos permite seguir viviendo nuestra misión de buscar a Dios y servir en la Iglesia”. Los donativos para la colecta del Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos de la semana próxima ayudan a cientos de comunidades religiosas de Estados Unidos a mantener a sus miembros de edad avanzada. Sean generosos.

*Semana de la colecta*

**Ayuden a los religiosos ancianos.** Hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes de órdenes religiosas de edad avanzada han dedicado su vida a la oración, el servicio y las obras de misericordia. La mayoría sirvieron con poco o ningún pago. En la actualidad, sus comunidades religiosas carecen de ahorros suficientes para su jubilación. Su donativo al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos de hoy ayuda a suministrar medicamentos, cuidados de enfermería y cubrir otras necesidades. Sean generosos.

*Semana después de la colecta*

**Los religiosos expresan su gratitud.** Una hermana escribe: “Recordamos a las muchas personas que creen en el Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos, agradeciéndoles en oración su gran generosidad y compasión”. Que Dios los bendiga por su donativo a la segunda colecta de la semana pasada.

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)





## Meet Sister Lucille

“I had no other desire than to be a nun,” says Sister Mary Lucille Stelly, 89, who knew early on that she would pursue religious life. A member of the Sisters of the Holy Family in New Orleans, she taught in Catholic schools and later ministered in nursing homes—remaining in active ministry until her eighties.

Today, she lives in her congregational motherhouse. There, she is sustained by a shared commitment to prayer, service, and community.

Like Sister Lucille, most older religious served for little or no pay. Today, many US religious orders lack adequate retirement savings. Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious help Sister Lucille’s community—and hundreds more—provide for the needs of their aging members. Thousands of elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests benefit.

Meet the other senior religious featured in the 2022 Retirement Fund for Religious campaign.



**Father William Graham, OFM Cap, 75**  
55 years of religious life



**Sister Angele Marie Sadlier, O Carm, 91**  
75 years of religious life



**Sister Joan Flores, SSF, 81**  
63 years of religious life



**Father Bertrand Ebben, OP, 90**  
69 years of religious life



**Sister Denis Rodrigue, O Carm, 93**  
79 years of religious life



**Sister Ann Martinez, MSC, 82**  
65 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)