

Retirement Fund for Religious

Sponsored by the National Religious Retirement Office

August 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) is preparing for the 2025 Retirement Fund for Religious annual collection. For over 35 years, this collection has provided critical support to religious institutes that care for senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. This year, the collection will assist more than 20,500 aging religious across the country.



These women and men dedicated their lives to serving others in schools, hospitals, parishes, and more—often with little or no income. As a result, many institutes struggle to meet the increasing costs of eldercare, including medical expenses, nursing assistance, and basic living needs.

This year's appeal is scheduled for December 13–14, though your (arch)diocese may hold it on a different weekend. Printed parish materials (samples enclosed) will be shipped approximately four weeks before your (arch)diocese's scheduled collection date, as listed in the National Collections database.

Your commitment to promoting this collection is essential. On pages 2 and 3 of this guide, you will find information about the many resources available to support your efforts.

New this year is a social media tool kit guide, which we hope assists you in promoting the collection online. Please encourage pastors to speak about the collection at Mass; their words can significantly impact parishioner response.

We know how many responsibilities you juggle, and we are deeply grateful for your faithful efforts on behalf of senior religious and their institutes. Please reach out to us if we can assist you in any way.

In Christ,

John Knutsen
Director

Enclosures: (4)

Help Elderly Religious

Please help us promote the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

You can boost support by implementing a few suggestions from this guide.

You can also find print and online materials at retiredreligious.org/materials starting September 1. Most resources are available in English and Spanish.

Your dedication to using these materials will make a significant impact.

New this year is a comprehensive social media tool kit guide, designed to help you raise awareness online with ready-to-use graphics, videos, and sample posts.

Announce in Parishes

Ask pastors to announce the collection during Mass and in their parish bulletins. If possible, you can further engage the congregation by hosting a Retirement Fund for Religious speaker. Parishes with audiovisual capabilities can use the campaign video to convey the need for donations effectively.

Tips

1. Send parishes to retiredreligious.org/materials to download promotional resources listed in this guide.
2. Visit retiredreligious.org/materials/#tv-radio to request copies of TV and radio spots available for broadcast on (arch)diocesan and local media outlets.

Resources

Bulletin advertisement

Bulletin/pulpit announcements

Facts page

Speaker guide

30- and 60-second videos in English and Spanish

Share Online and in Print

Raise awareness about the needs of our senior religious and emphasize the upcoming collection's importance. Share collection reminders on social media platforms, websites, and other print or electronic communications.

Tips

1. Include the (Arch)bishop to Parishioners letter in parish bulletins and (arch)diocesan media.
2. Promote the collection on your social media. Find more resources and our new social media tool kit guide at retiredreligious.org/social-media-toolkit.
3. Use the suggested coordinator communications to remind parish and (arch)diocesan staff about the collection.

Resources

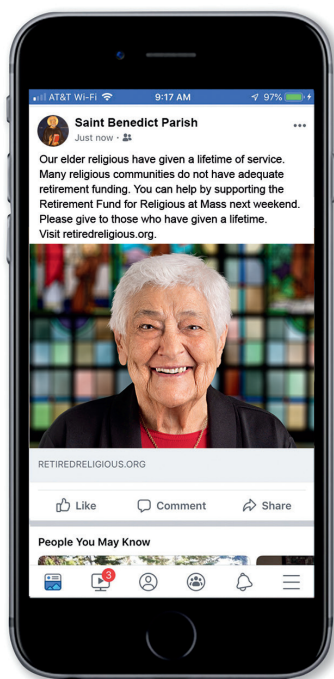
(Arch)bishop to Parishioners letter

Coordinator communications

Poster

Print and web advertisements

Social media tool kit and guide—**New this year.**



Social media post

Highlight Ways to Give

Offer multiple donation options for the collection and cater to diverse giving preferences where possible. Some parishioners prefer the traditional in-pew collection; others prefer the ease of electronic giving.

Tips

1. Ask parishes to include the Retirement Fund for Religious as a designated gift option on their online giving platforms. Please encourage them to make this option available for multiple weeks to allow parishioners ample time to contribute.
2. Make the online giving option available on (arch)diocesan platforms.
3. Remind parishes to make printed campaign promotional materials available to parishioners.

Resources

For additional resources, please visit retiredreligious.org/materials.

Donations can also be mailed to:

National Religious Retirement Office

3211 Fourth Street NE

Washington DC 20017-1194

(Make checks payable to Retirement Fund for Religious.)

After the Collection

We encourage you to thank our generous donors for making the 2025 collection successful. You can download and use the bulletin announcement and social media posts written specifically for publication during the week following the collection.

Visit retiredreligious.org/materials to download.

Sample Letter: (Arch)bishop to Parishioners (English and Spanish)

Dear Friends in Christ,

Soon, our parishes will participate in the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection. This important annual appeal benefits more than 20,500 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives in service to the Church.

These faithful servants have long been a source of inspiration and support in our communities. I am personally grateful for the religious who helped shape my own faith journey. Perhaps you, too, have known an elderly sister, brother, or religious order priest whose quiet dedication, prayerful presence, or selfless acts left a lasting impression on your life.

Today, the challenges many of these senior religious and their communities face in meeting their retirement needs are greater than ever. Most received little to no pay for their service, and their communities struggle to cover rising health care expenses and the increasing cost of day-to-day eldercare. The financial burdens continue to grow, and the need is urgent.

Gifts to the Retirement Fund for Religious make a real, tangible difference to these many women and men religious. Contributions directly support their ongoing care today and help ensure that their communities can plan wisely for their future.

I know you are asked to support many worthy causes, and I thank you for the many ways you give. Please consider making a gift to this year's collection if you are able—and continue to pray for all our elderly religious. They also remember us daily in their prayers.

May God bless you and your loved ones abundantly with peace and health.

Yours in Christ,

Estimados amigos en Cristo:

Pronto nuestras parroquias participarán en la colecta anual del Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos. Esta importante campaña anual beneficia a más de 20,500 hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes de órdenes religiosas ancianos que han dedicado su vida al servicio de la Iglesia.

Durante mucho tiempo, estos fieles siervos han sido una fuente de inspiración y apoyo en nuestras comunidades. Personalmente estoy agradecido por los religiosos que ayudaron a dar forma a mi propio camino de fe. Tal vez ustedes también hayan conocido a una hermana, un hermano o un sacerdote de una orden religiosa de edad avanzada cuya dedicación silenciosa, presencia con la oración o actos desinteresados dejaron una impresión perdurable en su vida.

Hoy en día, los desafíos que enfrentan muchos de estos religiosos mayores y sus comunidades para satisfacer sus necesidades de retiro son mayores que nunca. La mayoría recibió poca o ninguna remuneración por su servicio, y sus comunidades tienen dificultades para cubrir los gastos en aumento de atención sanitaria y el creciente costo del cuidado diario de los ancianos. Las cargas financieras siguen incrementándose, y la necesidad es urgente.

Los donativos al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos marcan una diferencia real y tangible para muchas religiosas y religiosos. Las contribuciones directamente financian su atención continua hoy y ayudan a garantizar que sus comunidades puedan planificar sabiamente su futuro.

Sé que a ustedes se les pide que apoyen muchas causas valiosas, y les agradezco por las muchas formas en que donan. Les pido que consideren hacer un donativo a la colecta de este año si pueden, y continúen orando por todos nuestros religiosos ancianos. Ellos se acuerdan de nosotros a diario en sus oraciones.

Que Dios derrame abundantes bendiciones de paz y salud sobre ustedes y sus seres queridos.

Suyo en Cristo,



National Religious Retirement Office
Sponsor of the Retirement Fund for Religious

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

For campaign materials, visit:
retiredreligious.org