

Retirement Fund for Religious

Sponsored by the National Religious Retirement Office

Fall 2025

Dear Pastor/Pastoral Administrator,

Once again, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for your continued support of the Retirement Fund for Religious.

I am grateful that your generosity has helped the more than 20,500 women and men religious who rely on this collection to help meet their increasing eldercare expenses.

The kindness shown by Catholics across the country since the first collection in 1988 has made a tangible difference in the lives of senior religious.



However, we recognize that many communities continue to have issues providing for their older members who spent decades serving with little or no compensation. The cost of medical care, housing, and daily living continue to rise; rising prices present an ongoing challenge to these dedicated sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

This mission can only be sustained with your parish's partnership. The compassion of your parish community is essential to distributing crucial funding to hundreds of religious communities nationwide.

Please ask your parish administrator to highlight the collection in your bulletin, through your newsletter, and on social media. A mention of the collection during Mass may inspire your parishioners to give what they can.

We are deeply grateful for every expression of support—whether through prayer, donations, or outreach to friends and neighbors. With your help, we can provide the financial assistance needed to ensure our retired religious receive the proper care and dignity they deserve in their later years.

In Christ,

John Knutsen
Director

Enclosure: Posters

Above: See back page to learn more about the pictured religious.

Four Easy Ways to Help Elderly Religious

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

1 Announce the collection using this parish appeal/pulpit announcement

Download at retiredreligious.org/materials.

Today's special collection supports the Retirement Fund for Religious, which helps more than 20,500 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have spent their lives in service—many receiving little to no pay. Now, their communities struggle to meet their basic care, medication, and daily living needs. Your generosity ensures they can age with dignity. Please give in gratitude for their lifelong commitment.

La colecta especial de hoy apoya el Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos que ayuda a más de 20,500 hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes mayores de órdenes religiosas que han dedicado su vida al servicio –muchos con poca o ninguna paga. Ahora, sus comunidades luchan para cubrir su cuidado básico, medicamentos y necesidades diarias. La generosidad de ustedes asegura que ellos puedan envejecer con dignidad. Donen en agradecimiento por su compromiso de toda una vida.

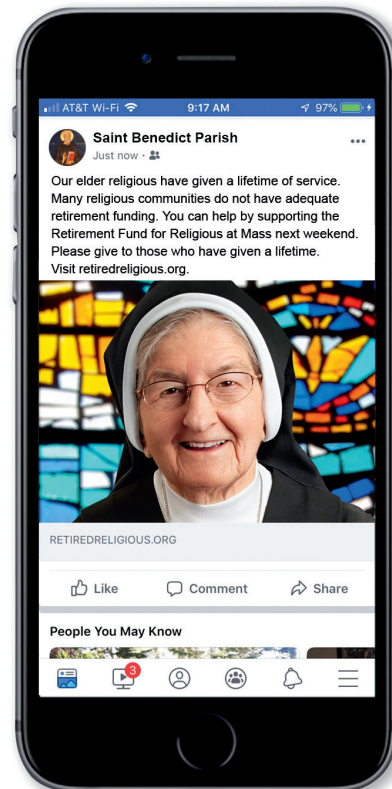
2 Publicize the collection in the parish bulletin

Download our quarter-page bulletin advertisement at retiredreligious.org/materials.



3 Share the collection on social media

Download text and images and access videos at retiredreligious.org/materials/#social-media.



Four Easy Ways to Help Elderly Religious, continued

4 Remind and thank parishioners using these bulletin announcements

Download our bilingual announcements at retiredreligious.org/materials.

Week before the collection

A lifetime of service deserves care in return. “Thanks to your generosity, we can provide the very best care to the sisters in our community,” says Sister M. Stephanie Belgeri, 73, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George in Alton, Illinois. Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide housing, medical assistance, and essential support for thousands of aging religious. Please consider giving next week.

Week of the collection

They gave their lives in service—now they need your help. For decades, women and men religious have cared for others, teaching, praying, and serving those in need. Many now face retirement without sufficient savings. Your support ensures they receive the care they deserve. Let us now offer them the dignity they have so selflessly granted to others. Your generosity today is not just a donation—it’s a way of thanking them for their lifelong service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Week after the collection

Heartfelt gratitude for your generosity! “Thank you very much for your donations, always,” says Sister Olivia Bellegante, 93, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in St. Louis, Missouri. Your gift directly impacts thousands of senior religious, providing the support they need in their later years. Learn more at retiredreligious.org.

Semana antes de la colecta

Toda una vida de servicio merece a cambio que los cuidemos. “Gracias a la generosidad de ustedes, podemos proporcionar el mejor cuidado a las hermanas en nuestra comunidad”, dice la Hna. M. Stephanie Belgeri, 73, miembro de las hermanas franciscanas del mártir san Jorge en Alton, Illinois. Donativos al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos cubre gastos de vivienda, cuidados médicos y apoyo esencial para miles de religiosos ancianos. Les rogamos que donen la semana próxima.

Semana de la colecta

Dieron su vida en el servicio –ahora necesitan ayuda. Durante décadas, mujeres y hombres religiosos se preocuparon por otros, enseñando, rezando y sirviendo a los necesitados. Muchos ahora se enfrentan a su jubilación sin ahorros suficientes. El apoyo de ustedes asegura que ellos reciban el cuidado y dignidad que merecen. Ofrezcámosles ahora la dignidad que han dado tan desinteresadamente a los demás. La generosidad de ustedes hoy no es solo un donativo –es una manera de darles las gracias por el servicio de toda una vida. Les rogamos que donen al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos.

Semana después de la colecta

¡Nuestra profunda gratitud por su generosidad! “Muchísimas gracias siempre por sus donativos”, dice la Hna. Olivia Bellegante, 93, miembro de las Hermanas franciscanas de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro en St. Luis, Missouri. Los donativos afectan directamente a miles de religiosos mayores porque es el apoyo que ellos necesitan en su edad avanzada. Para más información visite retiredreligious.org.

Looking for more resources?

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

retiredreligious.org

Meet the senior religious from our 2025 campaign

Many elderly religious served with little to no pay, and unfortunately, today, many US religious orders lack adequate retirement savings. The women and men religious featured on our 2025 Retirement Fund for Religious campaign materials are among those who benefit from this collection, which receives donations to help hundreds of communities provide for their aging members.



Brother Jordan Coonen, OP
65 years of religious life

“I was deeply influenced by the Racine Dominican Sisters who staffed my schools. Sister Marie Therese encouraged me to consider religious life,” shares Brother Jordan Coonen, 84, a Dominican Brother of Chicago, Illinois.

Born in Little Chute, Wisconsin, Brother Jordan was one of eight children, shaped by his devout family—especially his mother’s faith. After graduating from St. John High School, a visit to Chicago led him to join the Dominican Order.

His ministry took him to parishes in Chicago, Denver, and Madison, where he worked with youth, led maintenance, and taught crafts.

Now retired, he remains active in a large Dominican community, makes thread crosses, and stays connected with friends across the nation.



Sister Maria Cigolini, MSCS
62 years of religious life

“I was blessed to grow up in a faithful home. Inspired by my brother’s vocation, the Scalabrinian Sisters, and a devoted priest, I felt called to religious life early on,” shares Sister Maria Ciglioni, 86, a member of the Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo located in Melrose Park, Illinois.

Born in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, one of nine siblings, Sister Maria joined the Scalabrinian Sisters, encouraged by her brother, a seminarian, and a local priest.

She served as an educator for over 40 years before discovering her calling as a nursing home chaplain, where she walked with patients and families through life’s final moments.

Now retired, she lives with her fellow sisters, dedicates her days to prayer, and lovingly knits scarves and hats for those in need.



Sister Sharon Glumb, SLW
57 years of religious life

“Inspired by my teachers, my family’s Catholic life, and the sisters I met, I entered religious life in 1968,” shares Sister Sharon Glumb, 76, of the Sisters of the Living Word in Des Plaines, Illinois.

Born in Chicago and raised with five siblings in a faith-filled Polish American household, Sister Sharon entered religious life inspired by her parish and the spirit of renewal after Vatican II.

She served in religious education and vocation ministry.

Now retired, she works part-time with the Wisconsin Religious Collaborative on shared services and continues to play her guitar in prayer and reflection.

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.



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For campaign materials, visit:
retiredreligious.org