**2019 Retirement Fund for Religious** [**retiredreligious.org**](http://www.retiredreligious.org)

Sample Letter: (Arch)bishop to Pastors

Soon, our parishes will conduct the Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Please join me in encouraging a generous response to the annual appeal.

Following the example of Jesus, who “did not come to be served but to serve” (Mk 10:45), our senior religious have dedicated their lives to helping others. This service—in Catholic schools, hospitals, and social justice—has helped build up the Church in the United States. Each of us is a beneficiary.

Today, many older religious continue to volunteer, and all are devoted to the ministry of prayer.

Yet their religious communities often struggle to care for them. Despite ongoing generosity to the annual collection, hundreds of communities face a profound deficit between the needs of aging members and the funds available to support them.

I urge you to share this concern with parishioners, along with the contributions religious have made and continue to make to our Church and world. Consider hosting a speaker at Mass or make the appeal yourself. Most importantly, please announce the collection from the pulpit.

I understand that many worthwhile causes vie for the limited resources of parishioners. Please ask only that they give what they can. And, together, let us all pray for God’s blessing on our nation’s elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.