

Retirement Fund for Religious

Sponsored by the National Religious Retirement Office

Fall 2020

Dear Pastor/Pastoral Administrator,

Heartfelt thanks to you and your parishioners for your ongoing support of the Retirement Fund for Religious. Nearly 30,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests benefit from this collection.

Although the national appeal will be held December 13, some (arch)dioceses conduct the collection on earlier dates. Given this schedule, I am writing to you during the spring—in the midst of the Covid-19 crisis. There is no way to foresee the situation you and your parishioners will be facing by the time you read this letter. My deepest prayer is that it finds you safe, healthy, and recovering from the grave impacts of the pandemic.



One thing I know with certainty is that the needs of elderly religious will remain profound. With rising health-care costs and a lack of retirement savings, hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members. The additional challenges brought about by Covid-19 have compounded an already difficult situation. Proceeds from the Retirement Fund for Religious collection offer these communities critical funding to help meet ongoing eldercare expenses.

Recognizing that your own parish and parishioners may also be confronting financial difficulties, I ask simply that you do what you can to highlight the needs of senior religious and their communities. This guide provides an overview of resources, including bulletin announcements and social media posts, to assist you in your efforts. **Most importantly, please announce the collection during Mass.**

May God bless and keep you.

Gratefully,

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.

Parish appeal/Pulpit announcement

In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have served our Church and world. Today, they pray for a world that is hurting. Yet hundreds of religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Your gift to today's Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

Llamado a la parroquia /Anuncios desde el púlpito

En los buenos y en los malos tiempos, hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes católicos mayores de órdenes religiosas han servido a la Iglesia y al mundo. Hoy, rezan por un mundo que sufre. Sin embargo, cientos de comunidades religiosas no tienen suficientes ahorros para su jubilación y luchan para poder cuidar a sus miembros ancianos. Su donativo al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos ayuda con las recetas médicas, cuidados de enfermería y más. Sean generosos.

2. Publicize

Insert our quarter-page advertisement into your parish bulletin.

Download at retiredreligious.org/materials.

3. Share

Post a collection notice on your parish app or social media site(s). For parishes with audiovisual capabilities, 30- or 60-second videos, available in English and Spanish, can also be shared during Mass.

Download text and images and access videos at 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.

Bulletin announcements**Week before the collection**

Help our elders. In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

Week of the collection

Make a difference. “Every dollar makes a difference in covering our expenses,” says a Trappist abbot. Hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members because most senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little pay. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps these communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

Week after the collection

Thanks for giving! “We are conscious of the great generosity of the many benefactors who support the Retirement Fund for Religious each year,” says a Catholic sister. “Support from the fund has been a tremendous blessing to our retired sisters.” Thank you for donating to last week’s second collection.

Anuncios para el boletín**Semana antes de la colecta**

Ayuden a nuestros mayores. En los buenos y en los malos tiempos, hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes católicos mayores de órdenes religiosas se han dedicado a servir y hacer obras de misericordia. Hoy ellos rezan por un mundo que sufre. Sin embargo, años sirviendo por poca o ninguna paga han dejado a sus comunidades religiosas con gran escasez en los fondos de jubilación. Su donativo al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos ayuda con las recetas médicas, cuidados de enfermería y otras necesidades. Sean generosos.

Semana de la colecta

Mejoren la situación. “Cada dólar ayuda a cubrir nuestros gastos”, dice un abad trapense. Cientos de comunidades religiosas en EE. UU. luchan para cuidar a sus miembros ancianos porque la mayoría de las hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes católicos mayores de órdenes religiosas sirvieron recibiendo escaso o ningún pago. Su donativo al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos ayuda a estas comunidades a cubrir las carencias, ofreciendo ayuda para recetas médicas, cuidados de enfermería y otras necesidades. Sean generosos.

Semana después de la colecta

¡Gracias por su donativo! “Somos conscientes de la gran generosidad de muchos benefactores quienes apoyan el Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos cada año”, dice una hermana católica. “El apoyo del fondo ha sido una bendición enorme para nuestras hermanas jubiladas”. Gracias por contribuir a la segunda colecta de la semana pasada.

Meet the Religious You Help

Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious help religious communities across the United States to provide for the needs of aging members. Nearly 30,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests benefit. Meet some of them.

Sister Alice Garcia, SSCJ, 91

“At a mission in Austin, Texas, the good Lord tested me with 75 first graders,” says Sister Alice. “It [religious life] has been tiring sometimes, but my motto is to smile no matter the trial.”

Brother Martin Gonzales, OCSO, 95

“After the war, a lot of men were looking for peace,” says Brother Martin, a decorated World War II veteran. Since 1952, he has found that peace in his vocation as a cloistered Trappist monk.

Sister Theresa McGrath, CCVI, 86

Born in Ireland, Sister Theresa came to the United States when she was 16 years old and has been serving in religious life ever since. “I just felt that this was where God was calling me,” she says.

Sister Anne Cecile Muldoon, OSU, 93

After ministering in Catholic schools for 50 years, Sister Anne Cecile served in a day care center for another 16 before finally retiring. “Around 87, I had to admit I was getting older,” she says. Today, she continues to volunteer.

Abbot Emeritus Peter Eberle, OSB, 79

“When you are pretty sure that God is calling you to a place, life is full of contentment,” says Abbot Peter, who entered his monastery in 1961 and remains active in ministry as a formation director and moral theology teacher.



Looking for more resources?

Visit our website to download bilingual bulletin inserts, campaign images, web banners, Retirement Fund for Religious facts, and more.

retiredreligious.org

Note: Bilingual printed posters, bulletin inserts, and supplemental envelopes are provided to parishes at no charge to promote the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Shipments for this year's collection have already been processed, but if you would like to adjust future shipments, please contact your (arch)diocesan coordinator.



National Religious Retirement Office

Sponsor of the Retirement Fund for Religious

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For campaign materials, visit:
retiredreligious.org