**2020 Retirement Fund for Religious** [**retiredreligious.org**](http://www.retiredreligious.org)

Sample Letter: (Arch)bishop to Pastors

*Please adapt as needed for your local circumstances.*

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection will soon take place in our (arch)diocese.

In thanksgiving for the service and witness of our senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests, I encourage your heartfelt support of the appeal.

Catholic bishops of the United States launched the collection in 1988 in response to the profound lack of retirement funding among US religious communities. Collection proceeds offer these communities supplemental support for stabilizing retirement savings and meeting day-to-day needs.

Generosity to the annual appeal has helped many religious communities address their retirement deficits, yet hundreds of others continue to face a troubling gap between the needs of aging members and the funds available to support them. Covid-19 has only increased the challenge to provide adequate care.

I urge you to share this need with parishioners along with the contributions religious have made and continue to make to our Church and world. Please announce the collection during Mass and include a notice in print or electronic parish communications. If your parish offers online giving, please add the Retirement Fund for Religious as a gift option. Remind parishioners that they can mail offertory envelopes to the parish office if they are not yet able to attend Mass in person.

Across the Church, these are difficult times. Many are hurting, and parishioners may feel overwhelmed by the need. Please ask only that they give what they can. Most importantly, ask parishioners to join in praying for God’s protection over all our nation’s elderly religious.