

Retirement Fund for Religious

Sponsored by the National Religious Retirement Office

August 2023

Dear RFR Coordinator,

I hope this letter finds you well. As fall approaches, our office is preparing for the upcoming national collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. I want to express my sincere gratitude for your unwavering support in encouraging parishioners to respond generously.

The collection is scheduled for December 9–10, but please be aware that your (arch)diocese may have chosen an alternate weekend. Printed parish materials will be shipped to your

parishes approximately four weeks before your collection date, as specified in the National Collections database. Samples of these printed materials are enclosed for your reference.

We have provided a range of campaign resources to assist you in promoting the collection, as outlined in detail on pages two and three of this guide. Please emphasize to pastors the importance of announcing the collection from the pulpit. Their endorsement significantly influences the response we receive.

Soon, (arch)bishops will receive a digital one-page resource letter containing valuable links to promotional materials, including the text for an (Arch)bishop to Parishioners letter they can use to express their support for the collection. Please refer to the back page of this guide for further information.

We understand the demands on your time and the numerous responsibilities you have. We genuinely appreciate your efforts for our elderly women and men religious and their communities. If we can support you in any way, please reach out to us.

Once again, thank you for your invaluable contributions. Together, we can make a meaningful difference to those who have dedicated their lives to serving others.

With much gratitude,



Sister Stephanie Still, PBVM
Executive Director

Enclosures: (4)



Top row, from left:
Brother Charles Douglas, SSJ, 88;
Sister Marianna Danko, SSML, 80;
Father James Day, OSST, 77.

Bottom row, from left:
Sister Celeste Burgos, MHSH, 79;
Sister Brenda Cherry, OSP, 84.

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.

Announce in Parishes

Ask pastors to announce the 2023 collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious during Mass and in their parish bulletins. If possible, you can further engage congregations by asking them to host a Retirement Fund for Religious speaker. Parishes with audiovisual capabilities can use the campaign video to effectively convey the need for donations.

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

PAGE 5

Growing in Our Faith

Readings Week

Catholic Relief Services
Thank You
Our community changed lives this year, and CCRS (Catholic Relief Services) is proud to have been a part of it. Please continue your support of CCRS by donating to our fund. Your generosity will help us continue our work around the world.

Please give generously to the upcoming collection.
Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give generously to the upcoming collection.
Retirement Fund for Religious

Visit retiredreligious.org/2023photos to meet the religious pictured.
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Bulletin advertisement

Share Online and in Print

Raise awareness about the needs of senior religious, and emphasize the importance of the upcoming collection. Share collection reminders on social media platforms, on websites and through 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 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



Social media post

Highlight Ways to Give

Provide multiple donation options for the collection, and cater to diverse giving preferences where possible. Some parishioners prefer the traditional in-pew collection, whereas others find electronic giving to be more convenient.

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 2023 collection successful. You can download and use our bulletin announcement 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,

I write to tell you about the upcoming 2023 collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. This annual appeal assists nearly 25,000 elderly sisters, brothers and religious order priests nationwide.

I am grateful for the significant influence that women and men religious, both past and present, have had on my own spiritual journey. I deeply appreciate their invaluable contributions to our diocese and the wider community. Perhaps you too have been touched by the kindness and guidance of an older woman or man religious who made a positive difference in your life.

We are called to recognize that many of our senior vowed religious have dedicated their lives to service, usually receiving little pay in return. Consequently, their religious communities face a shortage of retirement savings. Compounding this challenge are rising health-care costs and decreased income. Religious communities find it increasingly difficult to meet the day-to-day needs of aging members, including their medical expenses, nursing assistance and other necessities.

Your generous donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide vital financial support, enabling religious communities to care for their aging members.

I know you are frequently asked to support many worthy causes. I invite you to contribute whatever you can toward this year's collection. In addition to your financial contribution, please keep all our women and men religious in your prayers.

May God's abundant blessings be upon you and your loved ones.

In Christ,

Estimados amigos en Cristo:

Les escribo para contarles sobre la próxima colecta en 2023 del Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos. Esta colecta anual ayuda a casi 25 mil hermanos, hermanas y sacerdotes de órdenes religiosas ancianos en todo el país.

Estoy agradecido por la importante influencia que los religiosos y las religiosas, tanto de ahora como del pasado, tuvieron y tienen en mi camino espiritual. Agradezco profundamente sus aportes inestimables a nuestra diócesis y a toda la comunidad. Tal vez ustedes también se hayan sentido conmovidos por la amabilidad y guía de una religiosa o religioso mayor que tuvo una importante influencia positiva en su vida.

Estamos llamados a reconocer que muchos de nuestros religiosos consagrados ancianos dedicaron su vida al servicio, por lo general recibiendo a cambio una paga escasa. Y por eso, sus comunidades religiosas afrontan escasos ahorros para su jubilación. Esta dificultad se ve agravada por los costos en aumento de la atención médica y la reducción de los ingresos. A las comunidades religiosas les resulta cada vez más difícil satisfacer las necesidades diarias de los miembros ancianos, como sus gastos médicos, asistencia de enfermería y otras necesidades.

Sus donativos generosos al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos proporcionan fondos vitales, lo cual permite a las comunidades religiosas cuidar a sus miembros ancianos.

Sé que a ustedes con frecuencia les piden que apoyen muchas causas valiosas. Los invito a que donen lo que puedan en la colecta de este año. Además de contribuir con dinero, les pedimos que recen por nuestros religiosos y religiosas.

Que Dios bendiga abundantemente a ustedes y a sus seres queridos.

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