

# Retirement Fund for Religious

Sponsored by the National Religious Retirement Office

Fall 2023

**Dear Pastor/Pastoral Administrator,**

I am reaching out to express our heartfelt gratitude to you and your parishioners for your continued support of the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your unwavering generosity has allowed us to distribute critical funding to nearly 25,000 women and men religious who benefit from financial assistance.

Since the Catholic bishops of the United States established the collection in 1988, we have seen its positive impact on the lives of countless senior religious. However, despite the



Church's sustained support, many communities still struggle to provide for their aging members. With rising eldercare costs and a growing population that needs care, we must remain steadfast in supporting them in light of the constantly changing nature of their retirement needs.

We urgently need your help to ensure our women and men religious enjoy a safe and modest retirement. You can assist them by sharing these concerns with your parish family and by using your parish bulletin, e-newsletter and social media to highlight the need for donations. Please announce the collection during Mass and encourage your parishioners to donate what they can.

We are grateful for the prayers, generosity and advocacy of all who share our mission to support elderly religious. With your help, we can continue to support those who have devoted their lives to serving God.

With gratitude,

*Sister Stephanie Still, PBVM*

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 the collection using this parish appeal/pulpit announcement

Download at [retiredreligious.org/materials](https://retiredreligious.org/materials).

Today's special collection supports the Retirement Fund for Religious. Please donate to help thousands of elderly religious individuals retire with dignity. Your donation will provide essential care, medicine and other necessities for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have served for decades—usually for little or no pay. Let us show our appreciation by generously supporting those who have given so much.

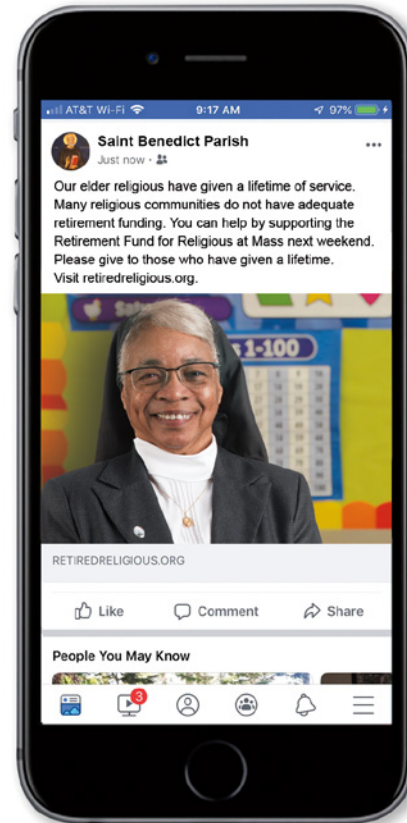
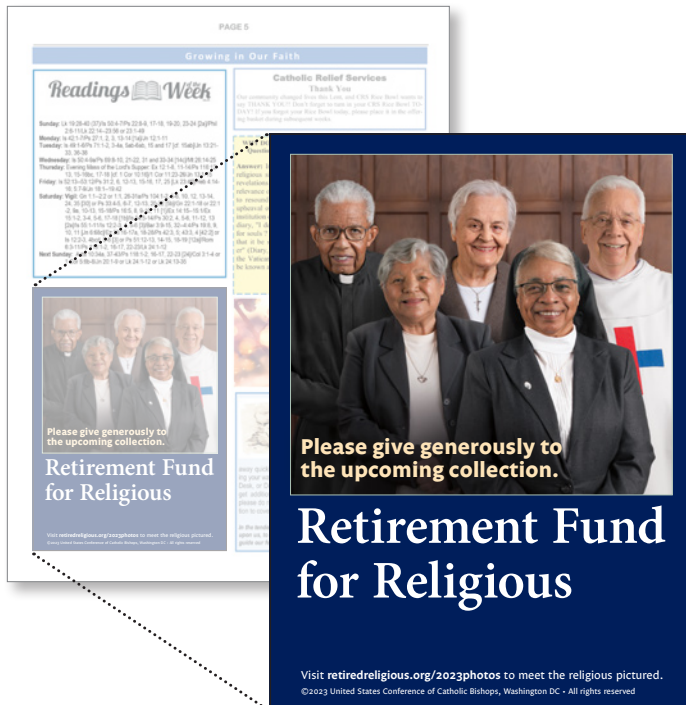
La colecta especial de hoy apoya el Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos. Les rogamos que donen para ayudar a que los religiosos y religiosas ancianos se puedan jubilar con dignidad. Su donativo proporcionará cuidados esenciales, medicamentos y otras necesidades para casi 25,000 hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes de órdenes religiosas ancianos que sirvieron por décadas y generalmente por un pago escaso o ninguno. Mostremos nuestro aprecio apoyando generosamente a los que han dado tanto.

### 2 Publicize the collection in the parish bulletin

Download our quarter-page bulletin advertisement at [retiredreligious.org/materials](https://retiredreligious.org/materials).

### 3 Share the collection on social media

Download text and images and access videos at [retiredreligious.org/materials/#social-media](https://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](http://retiredreligious.org/materials).

## *Week before the collection*

**You can help.** “Religious are blessed to serve,” says Dominican Father Bertrand Ebben, age 90. Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious next week. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously.

## *Week of the collection*

**Support a lifetime of service.** Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education and care for those in need—usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious. Please give generously.

## *Week after the collection*

**Our women and men religious offer gratitude.** A sister shares, “I thank the Lord for all who give. I don’t think we would make it without them.” Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious last week. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org).

## *Semana antes de la colecta*

**Ustedes pueden ayudar.** “Los religiosos somos dichosos por poder servir”, dice el padre dominico Bertrand Ebben de 90 años. Les rogamos que donen al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos la próxima semana. Su regalo proporcionará cuidados esenciales para casi 25,000 hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes de órdenes religiosas ancianos que han dedicado su vida al servicio de los demás. Mostremos nuestra gratitud a estas abnegadas personas con un generoso donativo.

## *Semana de la colecta*

**Apoye toda una vida de servicio.** Las mujeres y hombres consagrados han dedicado su vida al servicio de los demás rezando, ministrando, educando y cuidando a los necesitados, y muchas veces por un pago escaso o ninguno. Hoy día, las comunidades religiosas carecen de ahorros suficientes para su jubilación. En su edad avanzada necesitan cuidados esenciales y medicamentos. Les rogamos que los apoyen con su donativo al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos. Su donativo significa mucho para casi 25,000 religiosas y religiosos ancianos. Sean generosos.

## *Semana después de la colecta*

**Nuestras religiosas y religiosos están muy agradecidos.** Una hermana comparte: “Agradezco al Señor por todos los que donan. No creo que podríamos vivir sin ellos”. Gracias por donar al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos la semana pasada. Su donativo significa mucho para la vida de las religiosas y religiosos ancianos. Para saber más sobre cómo su donativo los ayuda, visite [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org).

## Looking for more resources?

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

[retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org)

## Meet the senior religious from our 2023 campaign

The women and men religious featured on our 2023 Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR) campaign materials are among those who benefit from the RFR, which receives donations to help hundreds of communities provide for their aging members. Many elderly religious serve without pay and many US religious orders lack adequate retirement savings.

### Sister Brenda Cherry, OSP, 84

65 years of religious life

“My father instilled in me a deep love for the Lord from a young age,” says Brenda Cherry, an Oblate Sister of Providence.

Sister Brenda has spent her entire ministry in education, teaching in schools in Baltimore, Washington DC and New Orleans.

Today, Sister Brenda lives in her congregational motherhouse and serves as the director and kindergarten teacher at the Mount Providence Child Development Center.



Brother Charles Douglas, SSJ, 88

61 years of religious life



Sister Marianna Danko, SSMI, 80

63 years of religious life

### Father James Day, OSST, 77

59 years of religious life

“I was inspired by the joy and dedication of the Trinitarians,” says Father James Day, a member of the Order of the Most Holy Trinity, commonly called the Trinitarians.

He entered religious life in the 1960s and has served as a formation director and parish priest. For the last 29 years, he has been a Catholic school administrator.

Today, in his retirement, he continues to serve as president of DeMatha Catholic High School, a four-year Catholic high school for boys located in Maryland.



Sister Celeste Burgos, MSHS, 79

56 years of religious life

**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.



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](http://retiredreligious.org)