**2023 Retirement Fund for Religious** **[retiredreligious.org](http://www.retiredreligious.org)**

Sample Letter for Requesting Speakers

Date

Dear (*insert name*),

Soon our parishes will be conducting the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection. As coordinator for the appeal in our (arch)diocese, I ask for your help in raising awareness of the needs of senior religious and their communities. Please consider giving a short talk on behalf of the collection.

As you likely know, the dedication and hard work of senior religious laid the foundation for countless Catholic schools, hospitals and agencies. Many of us can recall a special sister, brother or religious order priest whose ministry and witness had a profound impact on our lives. Most senior religious worked for little or no pay, and now their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Hundreds of communities struggle to provide for aging members.

In 1988, Catholic bishops of the United States launched the Retirement Fund for Religious collection to help address the shortage in retirement funding. Proceeds underwrite financial assistance, education and services that help eligible religious communities meet immediate eldercare expenses and plan for future needs.

Should you accept the invitation to give a short talk, a speaker guide and other resources are available to help you prepare. (Visit [**retiredreligious.org/materials**](https://retiredreligious.org/materials/)to access.) With your assistance, we can make known the needs of elderly religious and remind parishioners of the tremendous service that religious have offered our Church and world. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,