



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



December 5, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Pope Francis often highlights the role older adults play in conveying faith from one generation to the next. Recently, he noted that “there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel.” As we approach the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection next weekend, I am reminded that senior religious never retire from their vows. This special collection benefits some 26,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests - I encourage your continued support.

Instead, the prayer and ministry of older religious are an ongoing witness to the Gospel. In their younger years, they laid the foundation for Catholic schools, hospitals, and works of mercy. Today, many serve in volunteer ministry. Others are frail and need assistance. Yet all remain wholly committed to their vocations, accepting the limitations of aging and embracing the opportunity to spend more time praying for our Church and world.

Four religious orders who have a presence in the Diocese of Fort Worth – the Congregation of the Mother of the Redeemer (CRM), the Dominican Sisters of Mary Immaculate Province (OP), Hermanas Catequistas Guadalupanas (HCG) and the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur (SSMN) received more than \$203 thousand from this collection last year to assist them in caring for their retired religious.

Most senior religious worked for little pay, and now their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious offers support that helps religious communities provide loving care for older members while ensuring younger ones can continue the good works of their elders. Your gift provides vital funding for medications, nursing care, and more.

In these difficult days, you may feel as though your generosity has been exhausted. I ask just two things. First, please join me in praying for God’s continued blessing on our nation’s elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Second, please support the Retirement Fund for Religious collection as you are able—and know that women and men religious across the country hold you and your loved ones in grateful prayer.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

+ Michael F. Olson

Most Reverend Michael F. Olson, STD, MA
Bishop of Fort Worth

THE CATHOLIC CENTER

800 West Loop 820 South • Fort Worth, TX 76108 • (817) 560-3300 • Fax (817) 244-8839 • fwdioc.org
officeofthebishop@fwdioc.org