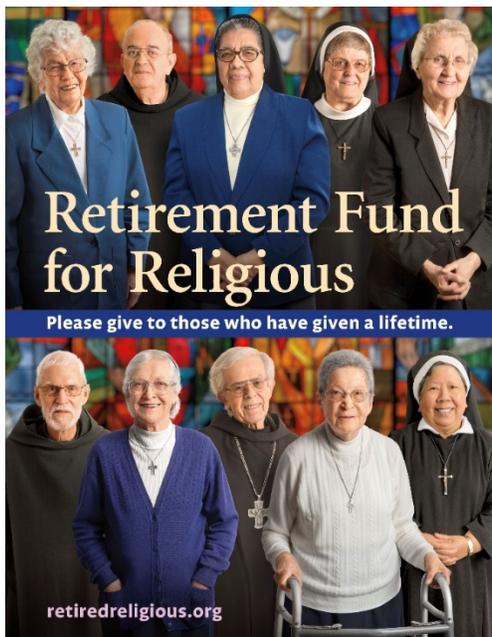


Special Collection
Retirement Fund for Religious
December 11-12, 2021



The Diocese of Fort Worth will hold the Retirement Fund for Religious collection Dec. 11-12. The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) coordinates this annual appeal and distributes the proceeds to assist eligible U.S. religious communities with their retirement needs. Nearly 26,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests benefit.

Last year, the Diocese of Fort Worth donated \$202,803.89 to the collection. The following orders, located in the Fort Worth Diocese, received financial support in 2020 made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious:

- Congregation of the Mother of the Redeemer (CRM) \$77,943.53
- Dominican Sisters of Mary Immaculate Province (OP) \$43,713.06
- Hermanas Catequistas Guadalupanas (HCG) \$36,698.90
- Sisters of St. Mary of Namur (SSMN) \$44,758.94

In 1988, Catholic bishops of the United States launched the Retirement Fund for Religious to address the significant lack of retirement funding for Catholic sisters, brothers, and priests in religious orders. For most of their lives, elder religious worked for little to no pay. There were no 401(k) plans or pensions. Religious communities are financially responsible for the support and care of all members. Income, earnings, and expenses are managed separately from the parish and diocesan structures of the Catholic Church.

Today, religious past age 70 outnumber religious under age 70 by nearly three to one. There are 26,330 religious past age 70 living in the United States. In 2020, the average annual cost for their care was more than \$49,000 per person; skilled care averaged \$78,000 per person. 26,330 religious past age 70 benefited from the Retirement Fund for Religious.

The 2020 collection garnered \$20.7 million. While this total represents a decrease from previous appeals, the 2019 collection raised \$26.2 million, it is a remarkable display of support during such a difficult year. 321 religious communities received funding in 2020, including at least four within our diocese.

“Without your help and that of coordinators across the country, there is simply no way our small staff could promote and administer the nationwide appeal,” says Sister Stephanie Still, PBNM Executive Director of the National Religious Retirement Office. “May God bless you abundantly for your goodness.”

Visit retiredreligious.org to learn more.

Please join in promoting a generous response to the special collection. Visit www.retiredreligious.org/materials to access downloadable resources, such as bulletin announcements and social media posts.

Please read the attached letter from Bishop Olson at all Masses the weekend before the collection (December 4-5).

Please be sure to announce the collection during Mass and include a reminder in printed or electronic parish communications. If possible, please add the Retirement Fund for Religious as an option for your parish's online giving platform.

General Information for Parishes:

Collection Date	December 11-12, 2020
Date Funds Due to Diocese	January 3, 2021
Intacct Account Number	214000
Intacct Fund Number	28016
Online Donation Link	https://bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections

Helpful Online Resources:

Other resources in English and Spanish – including social media toolkits – are available for download at: www.retiredreligious.org/materials

30 second, 60 second and 3 minute videos available [here](#).

Social Media Tool Kit: <https://retiredreligious.org/social-media-toolkit/>

ENGLISH

Bulletin and Website Announcements

Week before the collection

Give in gratitude. A donor to the Retirement Fund for Religious writes, “I still remember the lessons the sisters gave us and how they instilled in us the love of our faith.” Show your thanks for the prayerful service of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Your gift to next week's second collection helps provide care, medicine, and more. Please be generous.

Week of the collection

Help aging religious. Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously to today's second collection.

Week after the collection

Religious give thanks. A sister writes, “Our prayers belong most of all to the generous benefactors whose donations have made this financial assistance possible.” Thank you for supporting last week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Visit retiredreligious.org to learn how your gift supports elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. There's still time to give. Visit bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections (case sensitive) to give today.

General Intercessions

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving for our retired religious, that God continues to protect and bless those who have faithfully served our Church and world, let us pray to the Lord. R/.

Pulpit Announcement Week of Collection

Elderly religious need your help. Thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for years in Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes—often for little to no pay. Now, many religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Your gift to today's Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

SPANISH

Anuncios en boletines y sitios web

Semana antes de la colecta

Donen en agradecimiento. Un donante al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos escribe: "Todavía recuerdo las lecciones que las hermanas nos dieron y cómo nos inculcaron el amor a nuestra fe". Muestre su agradecimiento por la devoción en el servicio de las hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes ancianos de órdenes religiosas católicas. Su donativo la semana que viene a la colecta ayuda a dar cuidado, medicinas y más. Sean generosos.

Semana de la colecta

Ayuden a los religiosos y religiosas ancianos. Las hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes mayores de órdenes religiosas católicas han dedicado su vida en servicio a los demás: educaron a los jóvenes, cuidaron a los enfermos y sirvieron a los menos afortunados. Hoy, muchos son ancianos y necesitan ser atendidos. El regalo deducible de impuestos al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos ayuda a proporcionar medicamentos, cuidado de enfermería y más. Sean generoso con la segunda colecta de hoy.

Semana después de la colecta

Los religiosos expresan su gratitud. Una hermana escribe: "Nuestras oraciones son, sobre todo para los generosos benefactores cuyos donativos han hecho posible esta ayuda financiera". Gracias por su apoyo a la colecta la semana pasada para el Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos. Visiten retiredreligious.org para aprender cómo su donativo apoya a las hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes ancianos de órdenes religiosas.

Preces Generales

R/. Señor, escúchanos.

En acción de gracias por nuestros religiosos jubilados, que Dios continúa protegiendo y bendiciendo a aquellos que han servido fielmente a nuestra Iglesia y al mundo, oremos al Señor. R/.

Llamado a la parroquia semana de la colecta

Los religiosos ancianos necesitan su ayuda. Miles de hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes mayores de órdenes religiosas sirvieron en escuelas, hospitales y parroquias con poco o ningún pago. Ahora, muchas comunidades religiosas no tienen suficientes ahorros para su jubilación y luchan para poder cuidar a sus miembros ancianos. Su donativo hoy a la colecta para el Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos ayuda con las recetas médicas, cuidados de enfermería y más. Sean generosos.

If you have any questions about this special collection, please contact Rachel Martinez, CFRE, Director of Annual Giving and Grant of the Advancement Foundation at 817-382-4939 or rmartinez@adv-fdn.org.