



October 29, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are again approaching the annual collection for our Retired Religious, to be held in parishes on December 7th and 8th. This event has significant benefits for the retired Sisters in our diocese, as well as for the over 30,000 retired religious throughout the country.

The **Retirement Fund for Religious** offers financial support for those Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests who worked for years for little or no stipends. Last year, the people in our diocese contributed \$140,304 to help defray the costs of medication, nursing care, medical equipment, transportation, physical and occupational therapy and other necessary needs. Your generous gift is vital for their ongoing health care, supporting them so that they may age safely, with dignity and comfort.

Senior Religious are a treasure of the Church. Their dedication and hard work laid the foundation for Catholic schools, religious education programs, hospitals, social service agencies and countless other ministries throughout our diocese; many still serve those in need today. Those who are no longer able to actively serve still support all that is being done through their ministry of prayer, while continuously remembering the generous people who care for them through the aging process.

Some of you may not presently know consecrated men and women, but they have affected your lives through their ministry to your parents and grandparents and through the many organizations now in place due to their foresight and generosity. Ministries started by Sisters have had a tremendous influence in this diocese. They stand as a legacy to those generous women who dedicated their lives in service to the reign of God and who continue to find ways to minister to others. I join you in praising God for their faithful and generous service to the Church both in the past and in the years to come.

Please join me in supporting this year's **Retirement Fund for Religious**. I understand you are asked to support many worthy causes. I invite you only to give what you can. Most importantly, please continue to pray for an increase of vocations to the consecrated life and for God's blessing on all our women and men religious. Know you remain in their prayers and mine.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie



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Parish Appeal/Pulpit Announcement

Please read from the pulpit or include with the weekly announcements.

Today's special collection supports the Retirement Fund for Religious. Donate to help the more than 24,000 senior religious who have dedicated their lives to service retire with dignity. Donations will provide for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have served for decades—usually for little to no pay. Show your appreciation by supporting those who have given a lifetime.

Mass Resources

December 7-8, 2024 - Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Readings: Bar 5:1-9 / Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 / Luke 3:1-6

Bulletin Announcements

Week before the collection – Dec. 1, 2024

Aging religious need your help. “Your support acknowledges that we continue the mission of Christ even in our retirement,” says Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart Sister Celeste Burgos, 80. Donations provide for the care, medicine, and daily needs of over 24,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Week of the collection – Dec. 8, 2024

Support those who have given a lifetime. Women and men religious have dedicated their lives to service—praying, teaching, and caring for those in need—usually for little to no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation provides for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious. Please give generously.

Week after the collection – Dec. 15, 2024

Women and men religious offer gratitude. “Sincere thanks to the donors of the Retirement Fund for Religious. I hope we meet, if not in this world, then in the next,” says Sister Teresa Korycka, 81, of the Sisters, Servants of Mary Immaculate. Your gift impacts over 24,000 senior women and men religious, providing them a dignified retirement. To learn how your donation helps, visit retiredreligious.org.