

2025 TALKING POINTS: (Could be used by the parish priest to promote this special annual collection for retired priests in all the Parishes and Missions in our Diocese.)

Next weekend (or today) all the parishes throughout the Diocese of Erie will conduct the annual Good Shepherd Collection for retired priests. We have 87 diocesan priests with assignments in our Diocese and 3 outside the Diocese. The total number of priests of retirement age and those retired is currently 37. Many of them continue to help in parish ministries on weekends or whenever asked to allow the parish priest to take a vacation. In the next five years 17 priests will reach the retirement age of 75 and become eligible to retire.

There are 5 priests still in active ministry after turning 75, their ages range between 75 to 77, by their own choice they are on deferred retirement.

We can all reflect on the impact these priests have made in our own lives. Share with them a priest who influenced your vocation or priests who have served this parish. We most likely do not think of them often, but you know their influence upon us was important. They helped guide us in our Catholic faith.

These priests have been there for you and your families. These priests make present Christ, the Good Shepherd, not only in what they do, but in who they are.

The Good Shepherd Collection allows each of us to show our gratitude and support for those priests who have cared for us and our spiritual needs and have faithfully served our Diocese for many years.

One day, you will be in that group of “retired priests.” Contributions go toward the funding of the retirement pension and health care for these faithful priests. As the number of priests nearing retirement age increases, so will the need for funding to continue to care for and support them.

The priests of our Diocese join me in thanking you for your kindness and generosity for retired priests through the annual Good Shepherd Collection. Anything you can do will be greatly appreciated.