

# Retirement Fund for Religious

Sponsored by the National Religious Retirement Office

Fall 2026

## Your Eminence/Your Excellency,

As we prepare for this year's Retirement Fund for Religious appeal, we thank you for your faithful support of this ministry.

We are pleased to report that the 2025 appeal raised a record \$37.1 million, reflecting the generosity of US Catholics and their commitment to ensuring dignity and security for aging religious across the country.

Since 1988, the collection has raised and distributed more than \$1 billion. This year, single-year distributions exceeded \$40 million for the first time.



Every distribution allows a religious community to plan for its future with greater confidence because of what Catholics across the country have given.

Yet the need remains great.

Many communities still face serious financial challenges in caring for their elderly members, and only 6 percent of communities reporting to the National Religious Retirement Office are adequately funded for retirement.

We respectfully request your continued support in promoting the appeal. Please consider sharing a letter with parishioners and encouraging pastors to speak about the collection at Mass or to invite a speaker to represent it.

Your encouragement makes a real difference in how this appeal is received in parishes across your (arch)diocese.

Please be assured of our prayers—and the heartfelt thanks of the elderly religious who are sustained by your parishioners' generosity.

In Christ,

John Knutsen  
Director

*Photo, from left: Father David Costello, OCD, 90;  
Sister Anne Lanh Tran, LHC, 80; Sister Aida Sansor, MGSps, 87.*

Please visit [retiredreligious.org/materials](https://retiredreligious.org/materials) and scroll down to click on the **Resources** bar to download the following items and more:

- (Arch)bishop to Parishioners Letter
- (Arch)bishop to Pastors Letter
- Bulletin/Pulpit Announcements
- Bulletin Inserts

[retiredreligious.org](https://retiredreligious.org)

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National Religious Retirement Office  
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