

Retirement Fund for Religious

Sponsored by the National Religious Retirement Office

September 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

For over 38 years, the Retirement Fund for Religious has aided institutes that care for senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Today, more than 21,000 aging religious rely on this support.

These women and men religious served in schools, hospitals, parishes, and in many active ministries—often with little or no pay. As they age, institutes face rising costs for eldercare, nursing, and retirement-related expenses.



The 2026 collection is scheduled for December 12–13, though your (arch)diocese may observe it on a different weekend. Parish materials (samples enclosed) will be mailed approximately four weeks before your scheduled date, as listed in the National Collections database.

Please actively encourage parish participation, share the provided resources, and promote both parish and online giving opportunities to maximize support for senior religious.

In addition to the traditional parish collection, the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO)

now offers a secure online giving portal for those who prefer to donate electronically. (Arch)dioceses and parishes are free to share that option, if they choose, to make participation in the collection even easier.

Encouraging pastors to speak about the collection at Mass makes a meaningful difference. A personal invitation from the pulpit often inspires generosity.

We deeply value your partnership and the vital difference you make for senior religious through this collection. Together, we are ensuring care and dignity for those who served so selflessly. Please reach out if we can assist you further—your dedication is truly appreciated.

In Christ,

John Knutsen
Director

Enclosures (4)

Help Elderly Religious

Please help us promote the Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

You can boost support by implementing a few suggestions from this guide.

You can also find print and online materials at retiredreligious.org/materials starting September 1. Most resources are available in English and Spanish.

Your dedication to using these materials will make a significant impact.

New This Year

A secure online giving option is now available at retiredreligious.org. Encourage parishes to share the link in their digital and print communications.

Donations can also be mailed to:

National Religious Retirement Office
3211 Fourth Street NE
Washington DC 20017-1194

(Make checks payable to *Retirement Fund for Religious*.)

Announce in Parishes

Ask pastors to announce the collection during Mass and in their parish bulletins. If possible, you can further engage the congregation by hosting a Retirement Fund for Religious speaker. Parishes with audiovisual capabilities can use the campaign video to convey the need for donations effectively.

Tips

- 1 Send parishes to retiredreligious.org/materials to download promotional resources listed in this guide.
- 2 Visit retiredreligious.org/materials/#tv-radio to request copies of TV and radio spots available for broadcast on (arch)diocesan and local media outlets.

Resources

Bulletin advertisement

Bulletin/pulpit announcements

Facts page

Speaker guide

30- and 60-second videos in English and Spanish

Bulletin advertisement

Share Online and in Print

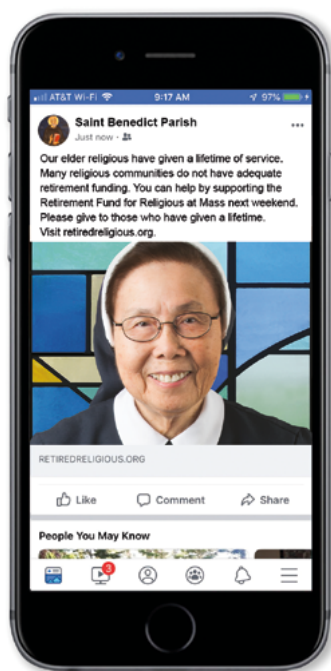
Raise awareness about the needs of our senior religious and emphasize the upcoming collection's importance. Share collection reminders on social media platforms, websites, and other print or electronic communications.

Tips

- 1 Include the (Arch)bishop to Parishioners letter in parish bulletins and (arch)diocesan media.
- 2 Promote the collection on your social media. Find more resources and a social media tool kit at retiredreligious.org/social-media-toolkit.
- 3 Use the suggested coordinator communications to remind parish and (arch)diocesan staff about the collection.

Resources

(Arch)bishop to Parishioners letter
Coordinator communications
Poster
Print and web advertisements
Social media tool kit and guide



Social media post

Highlight Ways to Give

Offer multiple donation options for the collection and cater to diverse giving preferences where possible. Some parishioners prefer the traditional parish collection; others prefer the ease of electronic giving.

Tips

- 1 Ask parishes to include the Retirement Fund for Religious as a designated gift option on their online giving platforms. Please encourage them to make this option available for multiple weeks to allow parishioners ample time to contribute.
- 2 Make the online giving option available on (arch)diocesan platforms.
- 3 Promote the Retirement Fund for Religious giving page as an additional secure online option. Parishioners can donate directly by visiting retiredreligious.org and clicking the **Donate Now** button on the home page. Encourage parishes and dioceses to share this link in bulletins, websites, and electronic communications.
- 4 Remind parishes to make printed campaign promotional materials available to parishioners.

Resources

For additional resources, please visit retiredreligious.org.

After the Collection

We encourage you to thank the generous donors whose gifts made the 2026 collection a success. You can download and use the bulletin announcement and social media posts written specifically for publication during the week following the collection.

Visit retiredreligious.org/materials to download.

Sample Letter: (Arch)bishop to Parishioners (English and Spanish)

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the coming weeks, our parishes will take up the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection. This appeal supports more than 21,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have devoted their lives to serving the Church and God's people.

For generations, these women and men have been teachers, caregivers, spiritual guides, and quiet witnesses of faith in our communities. Many of us can name a sister, brother, or religious order priest whose example strengthened our faith or whose kindness shaped our lives.

Today, the reality they face is challenging. Most religious received little compensation during their ministry. Now, their communities must pay for rising costs in health care, nursing support, and medications. These financial pressures are significant, and the need continues to grow.

Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious directly supports their care and helps their communities provide for them with dignity. It is a meaningful way to express gratitude for lives spent in faithful service.

I am mindful that you are asked to support many important causes, and I am sincerely grateful for your generosity. I encourage you, if possible, to donate to this year's Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Your contribution will make a real difference in the lives of our elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Please also keep them in your prayers, just as they faithfully pray for us.

May God bless you and your loved ones with lasting peace, strength, and good health.

Yours in Christ,

Queridos amigos en Cristo:

En las próximas semanas, las parroquias harán la colecta anual del Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos. Esta campaña apoya a más de 21.000 hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes de órdenes religiosas mayores que han dedicado su vida a servir la Iglesia y el pueblo de Dios.

Durante generaciones, estas mujeres y hombres han sido maestros, cuidadores, guías espirituales y testigos silenciosos de fe en nuestras comunidades. Muchos de nosotros podemos nombrar a una hermana, hermano o sacerdote de una orden religiosa cuyo ejemplo fortaleció nuestra fe o cuya bondad moldeó nuestra vida.

Hoy, la realidad a la que se enfrentan es un desafío. La mayoría de los religiosos recibieron poca compensación durante su ministerio. Ahora, sus comunidades deben asumir el aumento del costo del cuidado de la salud, enfermería y medicamentos. Estas presiones financieras son significativas y la necesidad sigue creciendo.

Sus donativos al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos apoyan directamente su atención y ayudan a sus comunidades a cuidarlos dignamente. Es una forma significativa de expresar gratitud por vidas dedicadas al servicio fiel.

Soy consciente de que se les pide que apoyen muchas causas importantes y les agradezco sinceramente su generosidad. Los animo, si es posible, a donar a la colección de este año del Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos. Tu contribución tendrá un impacto muy positivo en la vida de las hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes de órdenes religiosas ancianos. Les rogamos que recen por ellos, igual que ellos rezan constantemente por nosotros.

Que Dios los bendiga y a sus seres queridos con paz duradera, fortaleza y buena salud.

Sinceramente en Cristo,



National Religious Retirement Office
Sponsor of the Retirement Fund for Religious

3211 Fourth Street NE
Washington DC 20017-1194
Phone (202) 541-3215
Fax (202) 541-3053

For campaign materials, visit:
retiredreligious.org