

Retirement Fund for Religious

Sponsored by the National Religious Retirement Office

Fall 2026

Dear Pastor or Pastoral Administrator,

Thank you for your parish's support of the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Your generosity continues to make a difference for the more than 21,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who rely on this annual collection to help meet rising eldercare costs, including medical expenses, housing, and other daily needs associated with aging.

Since the first collection in 1988, Catholics across the country have offered a powerful witness of gratitude—honoring those who have dedicated their lives to prayer, service, and care for others.



Even so, many religious communities still face significant challenges. Decades of ministry often came with little or no compensation, leaving limited savings. Meanwhile, the cost of health care, housing, and everyday living continues to rise.

Through the partnership of parishes like yours, these funds reach religious communities nationwide and help provide care for our retired religious.

I encourage you to help make parishioners aware of this important opportunity to give. Please promote the collection in your bulletin, e-newsletter, and social media. Even a mention at Mass can serve as a strong reminder of this collection's powerful yearly impact.

We are grateful for every expression of support—through prayer, donations, and sharing the message with others.

With your help, we can continue providing the assistance needed to ensure our retired religious receive the care and dignity they deserve.

In Christ,

John Knutsen
Director

Enclosure: Posters

Above: See back page to learn more about the religious pictured here.

Four Easy Ways to Help Retired Religious

Choose the option(s) that work best for your parish.

New This Year

Parishioners may now support the Retirement Fund for Religious through secure online giving at retiredreligious.org, in addition to participating in the parish collection.

1 Announce the collection using this parish appeal/pulpit announcement

Download at retiredreligious.org/materials.

Today's special collection supports the Retirement Fund for Religious, helping more than the 21,000 aging sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. After a lifetime of service—often with little or no pay—many religious now depend on help for health care and daily needs. Your gift lets them age with dignity. Please give generously in thanks for their faithful service. You may give through the parish collection or online at retiredreligious.org.

La colecta especial de hoy apoya el Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos que ayuda a más de 21,000 hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes mayores de órdenes religiosas. Después de toda una vida de servicio, a menudo con poca o ninguna paga, muchos religiosos ahora dependen de nuestra ayuda para sus cuidados de salud y necesidades diarias. La generosidad de ustedes asegura que puedan envejecer con dignidad. Sean generosos en agradecimiento por su servicio fiel. Puedes donar en la colecta parroquial o en línea en retiredreligious.org.

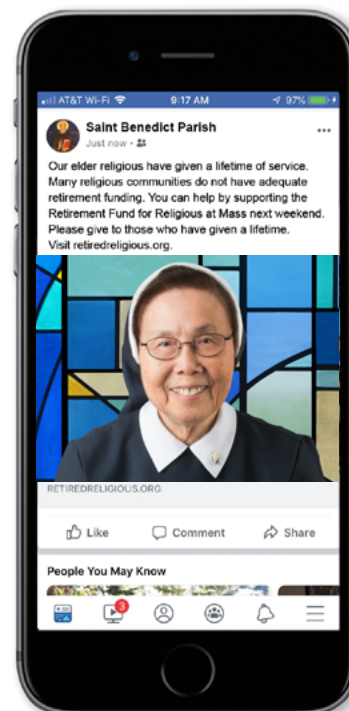
2 Publicize the collection in the parish bulletin

Download our quarter-page bulletin advertisement at retiredreligious.org/materials.



3 Share the collection on social media

Download text and images and access videos at retiredreligious.org/materials/#social-media.



Four Easy Ways to Help Retired Religious, continued

4 Remind and thank parishioners using these bulletin announcements

Download our bilingual announcements at retiredreligious.org/materials.

Week before the collection

A lifetime of service deserves care in return. “Our ministries often face deep financial challenges. We rely on the generosity of donors; their giving isn’t just helpful—it’s vital,” shares Brother Jordan Coonen, of the Dominicans in Chicago, Illinois. The Retirement Fund for Religious assists thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests with health care, housing, and daily needs. Please consider giving next week through the parish collection or online at retiredreligious.org.

Week of the collection

They gave their lives in service—now they need our help. For decades, sisters, brothers, and religious order priests taught, prayed, and cared for those in need. Many now face retirement with little savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious ensures vital support for health care and daily living—so they can age with dignity. Please give generously today—either through the parish collection or online at retiredreligious.org.

Week after the collection

Your support is sincerely appreciated. “Your generosity is more than a gift—it’s a grace. Because of you, we are cared for with dignity and love. I thank God for you each day in my prayers,” says Sister Diane De Carli, MSCS, of the Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo in Melrose Park, Illinois. Your gift supports thousands of senior religious. Learn more or give online at retiredreligious.org.

Semana antes de la colecta

Toda una vida de servicio merece que le retornemos su cuidado. “Nuestros ministerios a menudo afrontan retos financieros profundos. Confiamos en la generosidad de los donantes; su ayuda no solo es útil, es vital”, nos dice el hermano Jordan Coonen, de los dominicos en Chicago, Illinois. El Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos asiste a miles de hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes de órdenes religiosas mayores con el cuidado de la salud, alojamiento y las necesidades diarias. Les rogamos que donen la semana próxima en la colecta parroquial o en línea en retiredreligious.org.

Semana de la colecta

Dieron su vida sirviéndonos y necesitan nuestra ayuda. Durante décadas, las hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes de órdenes religiosas enseñaron a los necesitados y rezaron por ellos. Muchos ahora se enfrentan a su jubilación con pocos ahorros. Su donativo al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos asegura apoyo vital para su cuidado de salud y sus gastos diarios para que puedan envejecer dignamente. Les rogamos que sean generosos hoy, ya sea en la colecta parroquial o en línea en retiredreligious.org.

Semana después de la colecta

Su apoyo es recibido con gran aprecio. “Su generosidad es más que un regalo: es una gracia. A ustedes les debemos los cuidados que recibimos con dignidad y amor. Doy gracias a Dios por ustedes cada día en mis oraciones”, dice la hermana Diane De Carli, MSCS, de las Hermanas Misioneras de San Carlos Borromeo en Melrose Park, Illinois. Su donativo apoya a miles de religiosos mayores. Para saber más o donar en línea visite retiredreligious.org.

Looking for more resources?

Visit our website to download bilingual bulletin inserts, campaign images, web banners, and more.

retiredreligious.org

Meet the senior religious from our 2026 campaign

Many aging religious served with little to no pay, and unfortunately, today, many US religious orders lack adequate retirement savings. The women and men religious featured on our 2026 Retirement Fund for Religious campaign materials are among those who benefit from this collection, which receives donations to help hundreds of communities provide for their aging members.



Father David Costello, OCD
71 years of religious life

“From the time I was eight or nine, I felt a gentle call in my heart to become a priest. After my father passed away, my mother raised my brother and me and instilled in us a deep faith in God and a belief in the power of education,” shares Father David Costello, OCD, 90, a Discalced Carmelite priest from Ireland.

His calling was shaped by the encouraging influence of Brother Kelleher, an Irish Christian Brother, and the kindly presence of a visiting Carmelite, Father Joseph McElhenney. With gratitude for this inspiration, Father David entered religious life in 1958. He completed his novitiate and philosophy studies before traveling to Rome for theology. He was ordained there in 1962 during the pontificate of Pope John XXIII.

After teaching in Ireland, he ministered across California for nearly three decades, leading retreats, directing a house of studies, and pastoring a parish. He later spent 12 years in Kenya and Uganda, ministering to a parish and 15 sub-parishes.

Now retired, Father David remains active in ministry. He assists with retreats, offers spiritual direction, and continues to share his 2020 book, *African Memories*, a reflection on his years serving in Africa.



Sister Anne Lanh Tran, LHC
64 years of religious life

“Seeing the sisters of the Lovers of the Holy Cross in our parish planted a seed in my soul,” shares Sister Anne Lanh Tran, 80, a member of the Lovers of the Holy Cross of Los Angeles, California.

Her journey began in South Vietnam, where, as one of six siblings in a devout Catholic family, she joined the sisters’ school at age 12, entered the novitiate in 1962, and professed her first vows in 1965. After escaping Vietnam in 1975, she arrived in the United States and earned a Master of Social Work.

Building on her commitment, she devoted 29 years to serving homeless women and children at the Good Shepherd Center, a program of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles. She also served her community as Superior General for eight years from 2002–2010.

Now retired, Sister Anne resides with her fellow sisters. She dedicates her days to prayer and gardening.



Sister Aida Sansor, MGSps
63 years of religious life

“My whole spirituality is based on the Holy Scripture. I love the study of the Bible—that is the foundation of my faith and of knowing Jesus through the Gospels,” shares Sister Aida Sansor, 87, a member of the Missionary Guadalupanas of the Holy Spirit in Los Angeles, California.

Born in Espita, Yucatán, Mexico, the youngest of six siblings, Sister Aida was inspired by Sister Margarita of the Guadalupanas, whose faith reflected a deep love for the Holy Scriptures.

Sister Aida entered the convent in 1963 and dedicated nearly six decades to Hispanic pastoral ministry in the United States, making the sacraments and pastoral care accessible to Spanish-speaking Catholics. Her years of service in Rochester, New York, and her participation in the Encuentro de Pastoral Hispana program in New Bedford, Massachusetts, helped raise awareness within the Church of the need for Spanish-language services.

Now retired, she carries her lifelong faith into her current chapter, calling this season of her life “the richest time.” Still devoted to the Gospels and to Our Lady of Guadalupe, she continues to learn, noting that “growing older is dynamic.”

Note: Printed promotional materials are provided to parishes at no charge. This year’s requests have been processed, but please contact your (arch)diocesan coordinator if you need to adjust future shipments.



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Sponsor of the Retirement Fund for Religious

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For campaign materials, visit:
retiredreligious.org