



REVEREND DANIEL B. CARSON

VICAR GENERAL AND MODERATOR OF THE CURIA

Dear Brother Priest,

I write today to provide you with updates. I will continue to keep you informed as we navigate this challenging time.

Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious

The Archdiocese of Washington will hold the Retirement Fund for Religious collection on December 12-13. The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) coordinates this annual appeal and distributes the proceeds to assist eligible U.S. religious communities with their retirement needs. Nearly 30,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests benefit.

Last year, the Archdiocese of Washington donated \$425,000 to the collection. As a result of last year's national collection, the following religious communities in our archdiocese received a combined total of \$445,914.65 in financial support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious: The Carmel of Port Tobacco, Little Sisters of the Holy Family, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity, Piarist Fathers, Religious of Mary Immaculate, Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara and the Society of Mary.

The 2019 national collection raised \$26.2 million and in June 2020 the NRRO disbursed \$25 million in financial assistance to 341 religious communities. In addition, throughout the year additional funding is allocated for resources and services that help religious communities improve eldercare delivery and plan for long-term retirement needs, especially including this year to assist in adapting care protocols to address issues arising from the coronavirus pandemic.

Despite this generosity, many congregations still struggle to provide for aging members. It is common that older religious served for low wages that did not include retirement benefits. Today, numerous communities face a critical shortage in retirement savings. Moreover, retired religious now outnumber wage-earning members, resulting in declining income and a rising cost of care.

Our participation in this collection gives us an opportunity to be a witness of Our Lord's love and mercy for the men and women religious who have contributed so much to faith formation and to sharing the love of Jesus Christ in the Archdiocese of Washington. We are grateful for the legacy of service and charity they have given to so many. Thank you for publicizing this collection in your parish, and I thank your parishioners for their generosity.

November 30, 2020 4:06 pm

***Fratelli Tutti* Study Guide**

Pope Francis' latest encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti* is dedicated to fraternity and social friendship, and how our faith plays a vital role in building up civil dialogue and advocacy work. The Secretariat of Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns has developed a study guide (English and Spanish) for parishes. Using a rich list of Church documents, the Study Guide encourages readers to delve through the encyclical, chapter by chapter using a pastoral reflection process, questions for reflection, and Scripture. The Study Guide and other resources can be found [here](#).

Remind the Faithful of Information on the Website

The archdiocesan website in response to the coronavirus is updated regularly with information, in English and Spanish, for you and the Faithful available at adw.org/coronavirus, which includes a link to find a listing of live stream Masses and prayers available at adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/. The *Catholic Standard* and the Spanish-language *El Pregonero* newspapers are currently available on-line at cathstan.org and elpreg.org.

As always, should you have questions or need assistance from my office and the Pastoral Center, please let us know. Please be assured of my prayers for you.

With gratitude for your priestly ministry, I am
Sincerely in Christ,
Reverend Daniel B. Carson
Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia