



Chancellor and Executive Secretary of the Curia

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

Dear Monsignor/Father,

I write today to provide you with updates and will continue to share with you information as needed.

Retired Religious Collection – December 10-11, 2022

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington will take up the Retirement Fund for Religious collection December 10–11, 2022. The parish-based appeal is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) in Washington, D.C. The proceeds help religious communities across the country to care for aging members.

To help address the deficit in retirement funding among U.S. religious orders, Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the Retirement Fund for Religious collection in 1988. Distributions are sent to each eligible order's central house and provide supplemental funding for necessities such as medications and nursing care. Donations also underwrite resources that help religious communities improve eldercare and plan for long-term retirement needs. NRRO data shows that 26,330 women and men religious in the United States are older than age 70. The total cost for their care exceeds \$1 billion annually.

Religious orders typically do not receive diocesan funding but rather are financially autonomous and thus responsible for the support and care of all members. While many dioceses hold separate appeals for their retired priests' fund, the once-yearly Retirement Fund for Religious collection is for members of U.S. religious orders and benefits both men and women religious.

Last year, the parishioners of the Archdiocese donated \$375,000.00 to the collection. In 2022, the Carmel of Port Tobacco, Little Sisters of the Holy Family, Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity, Piarist Fathers, Religious of Mary Immaculate and Servants of the Lord

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and the Virgin of Matara received a combined total of \$377,103.95 in financial support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious.

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 Roman Catholic 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.

Please direct any questions to Sister Gilmary Kay, RSM, at kayg@adw.org.

Remind the Faithful of Information on the Website

The archdiocesan websites, adw.org and adw.org/es, are updated regularly with current information for you to share with your community. Please see adw.org/coronavirus for information related to Covid-19. Daily news and information about our parishes, schools, and ministries are also available at cathstan.org and elpreg.org for the *Catholic Standard* and the Spanish-language *El Pregonero* newspapers.

As always, should you have questions or need assistance from my office, please know that you can email me at FarrellT@adw.org or call my office line at 301-853-4507 or my cell at 202-531-4550.

With gratitude for your priestly ministry, I am
Sincerely in Christ,

Terence J. Farrell

Chancellor and Executive Secretary of the Curia



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