



October 29, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are again approaching the annual collection for our Retired Religious, to be held in parishes on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. This event has significant benefits for the retired Sisters in our diocese, as well as for the over 30,000 retired religious throughout the country.

**The Retirement Fund for Religious** offers financial support for those Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests who worked for years for little or no stipends. Last year, the people in our diocese contributed \$140,304 to help defray the costs of medication, nursing care, medical equipment, transportation, physical and occupational therapy and other necessary needs. Your generous gift is vital for their ongoing health care, supporting them so that they may age safely, with dignity and comfort.

Senior Religious are a treasure of the Church. Their dedication and hard work laid the foundation for Catholic schools, religious education programs, hospitals, social service agencies and countless other ministries throughout our diocese; many still serve those in need today. Those who are no longer able to actively serve still support all that is being done through their ministry of prayer, while continuously remembering the generous people who care for them through the aging process.

Some of you may not presently know consecrated men and women, but they have affected your lives through their ministry to your parents and grandparents and through the many organizations now in place due to their foresight and generosity. Ministries started by Sisters have had a tremendous influence in this diocese. They stand as a legacy to those generous women who dedicated their lives in service to the reign of God and who continue to find ways to minister to others. I join you in praising God for their faithful and generous service to the Church both in the past and in the years to come.

Please join me in supporting this year's **Retirement Fund for Religious**. I understand you are asked to support many worthy causes. I invite you only to give what you can. Most importantly, please continue to pray for an increase of vocations to the consecrated life and for God's blessing on all our women and men religious. Know you remain in their prayers and mine.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

*+Lawrence T. Persico*

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL  
Bishop of Erie



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“In the quiet corners of service, women and men religious have dedicated their lives to others. Your donations help us honor their lifelong devotion with the care they so richly deserve.”

Sister Olivia Bellegante, OSF, 92, center

# Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

**Our aging religious need your help.** Like those pictured here, more than 24,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated their lives to service—praying, teaching, and caring for those in need—usually, for little to no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation is crucial and can help bridge this gap, providing critical support for their essential care, medicine, and daily needs. Please give back to those who have given a lifetime.

From left:  
Father Maury Smith, OFM, 87;  
Sister Olivia Bellegante, OSF, 92;  
Sister M. Stephanie Belgeri, FSGM, 72.  
Visit [retiredreligious.org/2024photos](http://retiredreligious.org/2024photos) to meet the religious pictured.

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

**To give at your parish:** Make your check payable to your parish. (Write RFR on the memo line.)

**To donate by mail:** Make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious. Please do not mail cash.

Amount:  \$1,000  \$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  \$25  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (for e-newsletters) \_\_\_\_\_

(Arch)diocese \_\_\_\_\_

**Data Preference** (Please check Yes or No.)

The data I provided may be used to complete this transaction and may be used and stored in the records of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Retirement Fund for Religious.

Yes, I agree.

No, the data I provided may only be used for this transaction.

**Please check with your employer about matching gifts.**

National Religious Retirement Office • 3211 Fourth Street NE • Washington DC 20017-1194 • Phone (202) 541-3215 • Fax (202) 541-3053



**IT IS TIME TO SHARE CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ST.  
BONIFACE HOMEBOUND AND NON HOMEBOUND  
PARISHIONERS.**

**PLACE CHRISTMAS CARDS IN THE BOX IN THE ENTRANCE**

**DECEMBER 7-8 AND DECEMBER 14-15, 2024.**

VALERIE CARLSON	CAROL PEASLEY	ANN AND RICH ZIMMER
PAULINE TATARA	CECELIA LIBRA	DAVE TOMCZAK
ARLENE (CECELIA'S ROOMMATE)	DEBBIE NELLIS	DOROTHY WAGNER
MARGE ZIMMERLY	CECE BILETNIKOFF	BETH AND JOE OLEJARSKI
JUDY KRUGER	RON SMITH	KERI TENZA
KATHY KOZIK	MOLLY BRUNNER	KATIE AND FRED WEAVER
MARY DYLEWSKI	BETTY ROSE	LOU STILES
GERRY MILLER	STAN MOKWA	FRANK TWAROSKI
MARCIA ROUGEUX (DAWN SMITH'S MOM)		
DEE FRANCIS	FRAN KOSIOREK	MARY EVAN

**BLESSINGS TO ALL WHO SEND CHRIST'S LIGHT INTO THE WORLD  
THROUGH YOUR CARDS.**