



Retirement Fund for Religious

**Please give to those who
have given a lifetime.**

retiredreligious.org

Retirement Fund of Religion Collection Handbook

COLLECTION DATE: December 16th & 17th, 2023

Office of Stewardship & Mission Services – (859) 392-1500

PARISH COLLECTION HANDBOOK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Bishop Iffert Appeal Letter (*Messenger* – December 8, 2023)

December 9th and 10th, 2023 - Parish Education Weekend

December 16th and 17th, 2023 - Collection Weekend

Questions and Answers

Additional Prayers of the Faithful

Collection Calendar

December 8th, 2023 Bishop Iffert's Appeal letter appears in *Messenger*

December 9th and 10th, 2023 **PARISH EDUCATION WEEKEND**

- Pulpit Announcement
- Bulletin Insert
- Prayers of the Faithful

December 16th and 17th, 2023 **COLLECTION WEEKEND**

- Pulpit Announcement
- Bulletin Insert
- Prayers of the Faithful
- Collection

January 31st, 2023 **COLLECTION RECEIPTS DUE**

Visit the National Religious Retirement website for additional information:
retiredreligious.org

2023 Retirement Fund for Religious Bishop Letter Draft for Messenger:

December 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On the weekend of December 16th and 17th, 2023, the Diocese of Covington will be conducting the Retirement Fund for Religious Collection, an annual appeal that benefits nearly 25,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Our senior religious are a treasure—both for their service to our Church and for the ways their prayer and witness enrich our faith. “Planted in the house of the Lord, they shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall bear fruit even in old age” (Ps 92:14-15).

As I reflect on the ministry of women and men religious—past and present—I am grateful for the ways they have shaped my own faith. I also value the tremendous service they have offered our diocese. Perhaps you, too, recall an older religious who made a positive difference in your life.

Most senior religious worked many years for little pay, leaving their religious communities with a shortage of retirement savings. Rising health-care costs and decreased income compound the challenge of meeting day-to-day needs for medications, nursing assistance, and other necessities. Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide financial support that helps religious communities care for aging members while ensuring younger ones can continue the good works of their elders.

I understand you are asked to support many worthy causes. I invite you to give what you can. Most importantly, please pray for God’s continued blessing on all our women and men religious. Rest assured that they are praying for you.

Yours Devotedly in Christ,

Most Reverend John C. Iffert
Bishop of Covington

EDUCATION WEEKEND - December 9th and 10th, 2023

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT

Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have spent years ministering to others, often for little, if any, pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate savings for retirement and health care. Your gift to the Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious supports the day-to-day care of roughly 31,000 senior religious, providing necessities such as prescription medications and nursing care. *Please give generously next week to those who have given a lifetime.*

BULLETIN INSERT

Support elderly religious. A donor writes, “Your flyer touched my heart—seeing the retired religious, such memories surfaced.” Do you remember the sisters, brothers, or religious order priests who made a positive difference in your life? Today many are elderly and need assistance. Their religious communities struggle to meet retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. *Please give generously to next week’s collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.*

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

For our elderly religious and for all who serve you with selfless hearts ... *Let us pray to the Lord.*

For senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests, that they may enjoy dignified care in their elder years as they continue to devote their lives to prayer and service ... *Let us pray to the Lord.*

COLLECTION WEEKEND - December 16th and 17th, 2023

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT

Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Your gift to the Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious supports the day-to-day care of roughly 31,000 elderly religious, providing necessities such as prescription medications and nursing care. *Please give generously to those who have given a lifetime.*

BULLETIN INSERT

Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift today for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests, that they may enjoy comfort and security in their elder years as they continue to devote their lives to prayer and service ... *Let us pray to the Lord.*

Diocese of Covington

2023 Retirement Fund for Religious

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- **Does the Diocese or Catholic Church pay for health care costs of women/men religious?**
No. In the United States, religious institutions are managed separately.
- **How do my donations assist elderly religious?**
In the Diocese of Covington, 75% of the Collection goes to our local religious communities. The other 25% goes to the National Religious Retirement Office. The total collected within our Diocese for the 2022 appeal was \$155,093.62. Communities in our Diocese that receive grants from this collection are the Congregation of Sisters of Divine Providence of Kentucky (C.D.P.), Sisters of Notre Dame of Covington (S.N.D.), Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery, (O.S.B.) and the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ (C.P.).
- **If religious orders are separate, why does the Church co-sponsor this campaign?**
Even though the religious institutions were established separately from the Diocese, they have given, and still give valuable service to the Church. In gratitude and justice for what Religious have so selflessly given, the Bishops in the United States approved the RFR collection so the care of these men and women would be managed with dignity and respect.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

For women and men religious, that they might continue to teach, serve, and inspire others ... *Let us pray to the Lord.*

For the sick and all those who care for them, that they might find strength and comfort through the love and compassion of others ... *Let us pray to the Lord.*

For all who have died that they might rest in the peace of Christ, and for those who mourn that the darkness of grief might be illuminated by the light of the world ... *Let us pray to the Lord.*

For our Holy Father, and all Bishops and priests that they might continue to point the way to Christ ... *Let us pray to the Lord.*

For all government leaders, especially our president, that they might be instruments of peace for all ... *Let us pray to the Lord.*