



DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

Office of the Bishop

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Fall 2024

Dear Pastors and Pastoral Administrators,

On the weekend of December 7-8, our parishes will conduct the Retirement Fund for Religious collection, an annual appeal that benefits more than 24,000 sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have devoted their lives to our Church and faith community.

Despite their lifetimes of service, many of our aging religious face financial challenges in retirement. They often received little to no pay in return for their labors. The modest stipends they did receive have led to insufficient retirement funds. Considered with the escalating healthcare costs and diminishing incomes, religious communities find it increasingly difficult to provide adequately for their day-to-day needs, including medical expenses, nursing care and other necessities.

Over the years, this collection has assisted countless religious sisters, brothers and priests in meeting the overwhelming health and retirement costs associated with aging, loss and infirmities. The people of the Diocese of Raleigh have been generous in their contributions to this important collection, and I feel certain that they will continue to do so.

I recognize that you must make decisions among the many competing interests asking for your assistance. Please consider lending your support to this important diocesan collection. More than anything, I urge you to join in prayer for all our aging women and men religious—just as they fervently pray for you.

In Christ,

  
† Luis Rafael Zarama, J.C.L.  
Bishop of Raleigh