

## DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

7200 Stonehenge Drive • Raleigh, North Carolina 27613-1620 • (984) 900-3103

## Fall 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During these unprecedented times, many are hurting and need our assistance, including elderly religious. As we approach the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection, I encourage your continued support.

As you may know, senior religious were instrumental in establishing Catholic schools, hospitals, and charitable agencies throughout the United States. Often this progress came at great sacrifice, and many older sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little to no pay.

Today, hundreds of religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for a growing number of elder members. Covid-19 has only increased the challenge to provide adequate care.

Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for medications, nursing care, and more. If you are unable to give during Mass, please mail your offertory envelope to your parish or donate through your parish's online giving platform, if available. You can also send your contribution to:

National Religious Retirement Office 3211 Fourth Street NE Washington, DC 20017-1194 Please make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious

In these difficult days, you may feel as though your generosity has been exhausted. I ask just two things. First, please join me in praying for God's protection for all our elderly religious. Second, please support the Retirement Fund for Religious collection as you are able—and know that women and men religious across the country hold you and your loved ones in grateful prayer.

In Christ,

Luis Rafael Zarama, J.C.L.

Bishop of Raleigh