



“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](https://retiredreligious.org/2024photos)  
to meet the religious pictured.

[retiredreligious.org](https://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 \_\_\_\_\_

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(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



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## DIOCESE *of* GAYLORD

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November 5, 2024

My dear friends in Christ,

**On the weekend of December 7 – 8, our parishes will take up the annual national collection for the “Retirement Fund for Religious.”** This campaign is crucial, benefiting nearly 25,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have been faithful servants within the Church, devoting their lives to service.

As I reflect on their ministry, I am grateful for the impact these women and men religious have had on our faith journeys. Their devoted service to schools, parishes, and ministries throughout the world has impacted millions of people, inspiring and guiding us as we grow in faith.

Most senior religious worked many years for little pay, leaving their religious communities with a shortage of retirement savings. Rising healthcare costs and decreased income compound the challenge to meet day-to-day needs for medications, nursing assistance, and other necessities.

Your contributions to the Retirement Fund for Religious play a vital role in providing necessary financial support. This support enables religious communities to care for their aging members while ensuring that the younger generation can carry forward the invaluable work of their elders. Please consider contributing when asked and giving what you are able. Above all, I ask for your prayers for God’s continued blessings on all our women and men religious, who keep you in their prayers as well.

Together, let us support the many men and women in consecrated life who have made enormous contributions to our Church and to the world.

In Christ our Life!

Most Reverend Jeffrey J. Walsh  
Bishop of Gaylord