



The Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson  
Archdiocese of Indianapolis

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious was first launched in 1988 by the Catholic bishops of the United States. Now in its 33<sup>rd</sup> year, the collection has disbursed nearly \$800 million to financially support the care of our elderly religious priests, sisters, and brothers. This national collection assists those eligible religious communities with supplemental funding to provide eldercare, nursing care, and medications for our senior women and men religious.

This coming December 11-12 parishes in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis will participate in the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Last year you generously contributed a total of \$157,450.30 to the collection. Because of your generous response as well as from across the U.S., the Benedictine monks of St. Meinrad, the Conventual Franciscans of Mount St. Francis, the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, the Sisters of St. Francis in Oldenburg, and the Discalced Carmelites Nuns in Terre Haute received a total of \$1,403,176.77 in direct care assistance.

In this season of gratitude, I want to thank you for your ongoing financial support to the Retirement Fund for Religious. The benefits of your generosity cannot be overestimated. Let us also offer prayers of gratitude for the many blessings we have received through the generous service of our now retired religious priests, sisters, and brothers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Charles C. Thompson*

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