The diocesan Priests’ Retirement collection will take place on **September 16-17**

- The Office of Stewardship and Development prepared the enclosed materials for your parish. It is recommended that all parishes promote the collection one week prior, on September 9-10.

- If a retired priest assists your parish on a regular basis, please consider asking them to make an appeal at Mass on the weekend of September 9-10, or on September 16-17.

- If you have an Assistant Pastor, please share this packet with them as well.

- Enclosed are sample talking points, text for your bulletin and sample prayer intercessions.

- To download these materials, visit srpriestri.com and click on the parish resources tab on the left-hand side. There are also posters available to download or link to your parish website.

- The 2023 online giving page link is givecentral.org/provspr
Sample Talking Points:

1. Diocesan priests retire at age 70 or later. Unlike Religious Order priests, who are provided for in every way by their Order; diocesan priests lose benefits such as Room & Board, housing allowance, car insurance, salary, etc. Fortunately, retired Diocesan Priests retain VERY GOOD health insurance, but still need to pay their own Medicare part B premium.

2. Priests do participate in Social Security. But, salaries were so low years ago ($50 monthly prior to 1952, then $100 until 1972), that Social Security benefits for oldest retirees are LOW. Priests at that time also had NO HEALTH CARE.

3. So, the main source of income for retirees is the Diocesan Priest Pension. (In fairness and to keep the pension fund reasonably healthy, any priest receiving another pension for priestly work, such as from a military pension or from college teaching, etc., will not receive a diocesan pension.)

4. It’s a big challenge for the Bishop to fully fund the Diocesan Priests’ Pension Fund.

5. Today, 89 of our retired priests receive a pension. Approximately 2/3 are still active and helping. Many of our retired priests keep a busy schedule, sometimes assisting at 2 or 3 different parishes. Retired priests are such an integral part of the ongoing work of our parishes in the diocese, especially with the ever-increasing shortage of priests. While many remain active, there are some priests in nursing homes or assisted living and need a lot of support.

6. Please understand: retired priests are not in dire straits, sleeping in homeless shelters, or looking for their next meal in a soup kitchen. BUT, A Healthy PENSION FUND FOR SENIOR PRIESTS IS VITAL!

7. The collection will take place here at the parish on Sept. 16-17. Please be as generous as possible. This collection is an opportunity for each of us to say ‘thank you’ for their many years of dedicated service to the church.

8. As it is said by Jesus in the Gospels, “The laborer in the vineyard deserves his support”.
Sample Bulletin Schedule:

For one week prior to the collection (Sept. 9-10):

After decades of faithful service, many retired priests continue to serve where they are needed, while others require assisted living, or nursing home care. Since priests are paid a very modest wage, they cannot rely upon Social Security to make ends meet. No longer able to rely upon parishes for basic living needs, senior priests depend on support from this fund. Your generosity will make a difference in the lives of many who have served faithfully for many years in ministry – some of whom continue to serve well after their ‘retirement.’ At Masses on September 16-17, our parish will join others throughout the Diocese in a special second collection in support of the Senior Priest Retirement Fund. The collection is also our way of saying “thank you” for that service. Please consider a generous donation in support of our senior priests. To learn how this fund benefits senior priests or to make an online donation, please visit www.srpriestri.com. Thank you for your support of this worthy endeavor.

For the Priests’ Retirement Collection Weekend (Sept. 16-17):

Catholics throughout the Diocese have a unique opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of our senior priests. This week’s second collection will benefit the Senior Priest Retirement Fund, a significant source of support for priests that provides for basic needs such as food, housing, transportation and medical care. Please consider your generous support of this important effort that benefits those who have selflessly served the faithful for decades. For more information about the senior priest retirement fund, or to donate online, please visit www.srpriestri.com.

For one week after the collection (Sept. 23-24)

Last week’s second collection was for the Senior Priest Retirement Fund. If you did not make a donation and would like to support this effort that provides critical resources for priests in their retirement years, please visit www.srpriestri.com to make an online donation using a secure server or mail your offering to Sr. Priest Retirement Fund, Office of Stewardship & Development, 1 Cathedral Square, Providence, RI 02903. Thank you for your support of this critical effort to provide for senior priests in their retirement years – years many priests continue to spend very active in ministry.
Sample Intercessions:

For our retired priests, that the Lord give them good health in body, mind and spirit, and continue to make their lives and their ministry a source of grace for others, let us pray to the Lord.

For our retired priests, that they may enjoy comfort and security in their elder years as they continue to devote their lives to prayer and service. We pray to the Lord.

In gratitude for the faith filled work and contributions of our retired priests, who continue to devote their time and talents to the service of God’s people without counting the cost. We pray to the Lord.

For the sustained strength, good health, and well-being of all our retired priests. May their spiritual gifts encourage them to provide many more years of joyful ministry among us. We pray to the Lord.

For those retired priests now slowed by illness and infirmity. That they will realize the witness of their ministry is more compelling than ever before. We pray to the Lord.

For the success of this year’s Priests’ Retirement collection, may we all be moved to give -- in return for what we have received from our retired priests during their decades of selfless ministry. We pray to the Lord.