



December 1, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Another year has passed, and we are again approaching the annual collection for our Retired Religious to be held in parishes on December 9th and 10th. This event has significant benefits for the retired Sisters in our diocese, as well as the over 30,000 retired religious throughout the country.

The **Retirement Fund for Religious** offers financial support for those Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests who worked for years for little or no stipends. Last year, the people in our diocese contributed \$129,907 to help defray the costs of medication, nursing care, medical equipment, transportation, physical and occupational therapy, and other necessary needs. Your generous gift provides vital support for their ongoing health care.

Senior Religious are a treasure in the Church. Their dedication and hard work laid the foundation for Catholic schools, religious education programs, hospitals, social service agencies and countless other ministries throughout our diocese; many still serve those in need, today. Those who are no longer able to actively serve, support all that is being done through their ministry of prayer.

Some of you may not presently know consecrated men and women, but they have affected your lives through their ministry to your parents and grandparents and through the many organizations now in place due to their foresight and generosity.

I understand you are asked to support many worthy causes. I invite you only to give what you can. Most importantly, please continue to pray for an increase of vocations to the consecrated life and for God's blessing on all our women and men religious. Know you remain in their prayers. Please join me in supporting this year's **Retirement Fund for Religious**.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie