December 1, 2026

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 12th and 13th. This event has significant benefits for the retired Sisters in our diocese, as well as the over 21,000 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 $ 141,280.00 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, supporting them as they age safely, with dignity and comfort.

Senior Religious are our 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 while continuously remembering the generous people who support them through the aging process.

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. Ministries started by Sisters have had a tremendous influence in this diocese and they stand as a legacy to those generous women who dedicated their lives in service to the reign of God and continue to find ways to minister to others. I join you in praising God for their faithful and generous service to the Church in the past and in the days and years to come.

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 that you remain in their prayers. Please join me in supporting this year's **Retirement Fund for Religious**.

Scan to give

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Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

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

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