A Lifetime of Service. A Legacy of Love.

2026 Retirement Fund for Religious | Diocese of Erie







For generations, Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests have dedicated their lives to serving others. Here in the Diocese of Erie, their faith and commitment have helped shape our Catholic schools, hospitals, parishes and outreach ministries throughout Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Many served for decades with little or no pay, placing the needs of others before their own. Today, as they grow older, their religious communities face increasing costs for health care, housing and daily living expenses.

Their lifetime of service deserves our gratitude and care.

The need across our nation

The Retirement Fund for Religious helps eligible religious communities meet these growing needs, providing assistance for eldercare and long-term retirement planning.

18,931
— Religious age 70 or older living in the United States.

6%
— Of religious communities reporting data have adequate retirement funding.

$62,000
— Average annual cost of care for a senior religious in 2025.

Their legacy lives here in northwestern Pennsylvania

Across the 13 counties of the Diocese of Erie, religious sisters, brothers and priests have made an extraordinary difference in the lives of generations of Catholics.

The Benedictine Sisters of Erie have built a legacy of prayer, education, hospitality and service, including ministries that provide meals, support families and create opportunities for children.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of NWPA have served through Catholic education, health care, community outreach and ministries dedicated to those most in need.

The Sisters of Mercy and other religious communities have also helped strengthen the spiritual and social fabric of our region through decades of faithful service.

Their contributions extend far beyond the ministries they established. They live on in the countless lives touched by their compassion, faith and dedication.

Your generosity makes a difference — Here at home

In 2024, two Erie-based religious communities received a combined $506,696.81 in Direct Care Assistance through the national Retirement Fund for Religious:

Benedictine Sisters of Erie
$218,933.39

Sisters of St. Joseph
$287,763.42



This assistance helps religious communities meet the needs of their aging members, honoring those who have given so much to our Church and our communities.

Please give to those who have given a lifetime

Your generosity helps religious communities provide the care, comfort and dignity their senior members deserve.

Please prayerfully consider supporting the 2026 Retirement Fund for Religious through your parish collection or online at retiredreligious.org.

Their service has touched generations. Our gratitude can help care for them today.

Visit SupportTheSisters.org or scan the QR code to learn more.

SCAN ME

Sources: National Religious Retirement Office, 2026 fact sheet and 2024 Annual Report Supplement; Diocese of Erie 2025 Directory of Religious Communities.