

# Retirement Fund for Religious

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National Religious Retirement Office



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## News

### Message from the Executive Director

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Another year has arrived, and with that, we enter the 37th year since the National Retirement Religious Office (NRRO) was established. Throughout this time, we have remained steady in helping US religious communities address their retirement-funding shortages.

The mission and purpose for which the NRRO was created is to coordinate the annual national appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR) and to distribute financial assistance for retirement needs for eligible religious institutes. Since its launch in 1988, the national appeal has raised close to \$950 million to support our aging women and men religious.

During the NRRO's years of service, we have looked to different ways to provide resources and support to help religious communities meet their retirement needs and those of their aging members (*for more details, see pages 2-3*). Through programs, such as our dementia education series, we strive to offer religious communities practical information they can use to make their members' quality of life better.

Importantly, we try to remain useful to women and men religious by continuing to offer content based on the things happening in their lives. In the fall edition of the NRRO newsletter, for instance, we presented survey results that helped us decide how to improve our educational programming. As a result of this survey, we are aiming to provide new content and ways to deliver it as we move forward.

And we want to hear from you. Please do not hesitate to contact our offices or send an email. Be sure to use our many resources, even as we begin to create new ones.

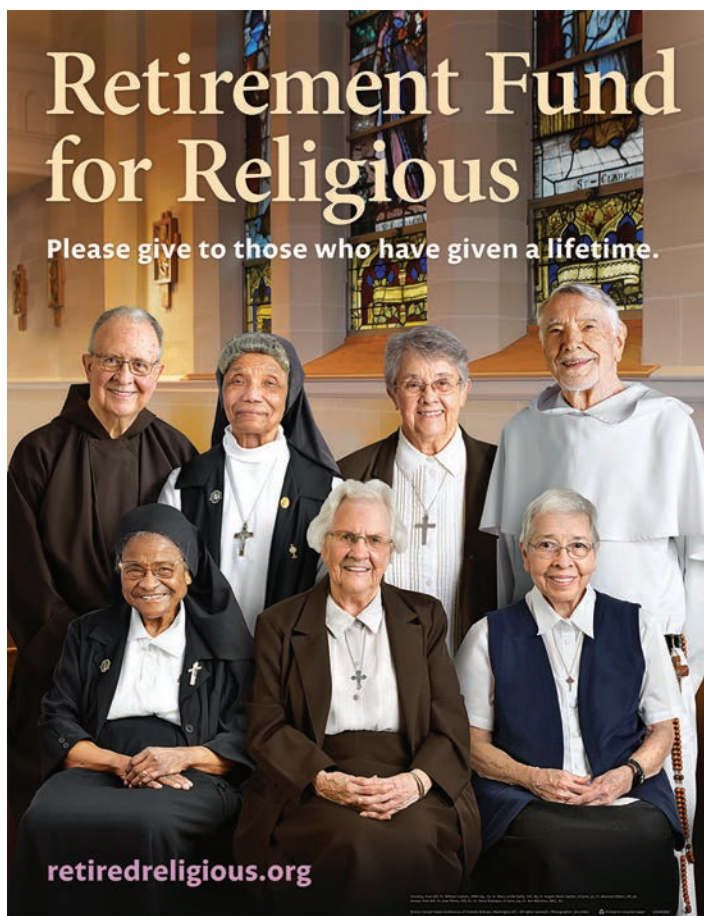
With gratitude,

Sister Stephanie Still, PBVM

## Supporting Retirement Needs of Women and Men Religious

### The NRRO Mission

Since 1988, our mission has been to help US religious communities fill their retirement-funding needs. The most important way we do that is through the RFR annual collection. Donations from the collection provide financial help and resources to religious communities so they may meet the retirement needs of their aging members.



The Retirement Fund for Religious promotional campaign materials each year feature elder religious.

Pictured above on the 2022 poster:

*Standing, from left:* Fr. William Graham, OFM Cap, 75; Sr. Mary Lucille Stelly, SSF, 89; Sr. Angele Marie Sadlier, O Carm, 91; Fr. Bertrand Ebben, OP, 90.

*Seated, from left:* Sr. Joan Flores, SSF, 81; Sr. Denis Rodrigue, O Carm, 93; Sr. Ann Martinez, MSC, 82.

### NRRO Financial Help

#### Direct Care Assistance

Gifts to the RFR collection each year make it possible for the NRRO to send Direct Care Assistance funds to religious orders across the United States. Communities combine this funding with their income and savings to pay for nursing care or medications. Close to 95 percent of our operational costs are made up of the funds we send to religious institutes across the country.

The amount an institute receives is determined through an application process. The NRRO uses a formula, based on several factors, to determine which communities will receive the funds. During 2021, a total of \$28.5 million was donated by parishioners via the collection held throughout hundreds of (arch)dioceses and by other donors. A total of \$30 million was distributed in Direct Care Assistance to 271 eligible communities. The portion of funding that exceeded what was collected in the 2021 appeal was realized from judicious financial planning.

#### Management and Continuing Education Assistance

In addition to Direct Care Assistance, the NRRO offers Management and Continuing Education Assistance. Religious communities apply for this funding—up to \$5,000 per calendar year—to meet their financial- and retirement-related education needs. For example, they may pay for workshop or conference expenses or purchase much-needed management tools, such as financial software or fiscal and demographic analyses. Applications may be submitted between January 1 and November 30.

### NRRO Calendar

#### February

**14** NRRO Webinar: *A New Look at Brain Aging*

#### March

**31** Direct Care Assistance applications due (Must be postmarked by this date)

#### May

**16** NRRO Webinar, topic TBD

## NRRO Resources

### Retirement Needs Analysis

To further support religious orders, the NRRO offers resources, including a Retirement Needs Analysis (RNA), to help communities understand retirement planning. The RNA gives an estimate of what religious institutes may need to care for their elder members.

### Eldercare Consultations

The NRRO supports religious orders by offering eldercare consultations. NRRO consultants help participating communities examine how they are providing eldercare and then make recommendations for improvements.

### Educational Resources

Educational tools in different formats help religious institutes to plan for retirement wisely.

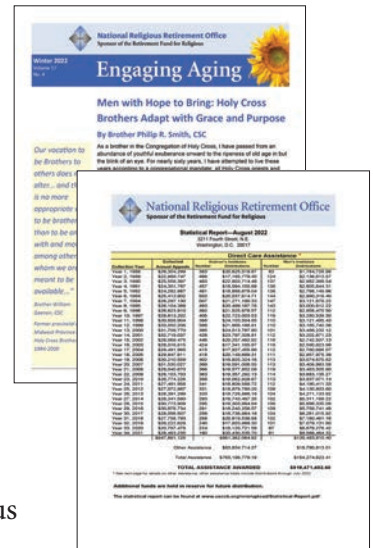
**Webinars.** Our popular webinar series hosted with the Avila Institute of Gerontology features updates on eldercare trends and continuing education for care professionals. Each hour-long virtual session is free, and new, live sessions are held quarterly with recordings available afterward. Plus, we keep an archive of all past sessions virtually. Visit [retiredreligious.org/webinars](http://retiredreligious.org/webinars) to access webinars by year.

**Videos.** Religious institutes can learn at their own pace online through two free, online NRRO video series. The Tending the Vineyard series includes five videos and support materials that explain property planning. Presentations include guidance from property experts and information from religious who have completed congregational property projects. The Walking Together series offers sessions that explore how to care for persons with dementia.

**Publications.** The NRRO produces several publications. *Engaging Aging* shares professional updates, success stories offering best methods you can use yourself, and information about the aging process. Seasonal RFR newsletters, like this one, provide updates and events important to religious communities and others.

And, each August, we produce a widely used statistical report that gives a valuable summary of the state of retirement for women and men religious. This report includes data from participating communities on the census within their religious communities, cost of care, retirement-funding status, and Direct Care Assistance funding information.

If you have not yet had the chance to see all the means of support and resources the NRRO offers, we invite you to visit [usccb.org/nrro](http://usccb.org/nrro) to find upcoming and past webinars, newsletters, video series, Direct Care Assistance information, and more. You can also visit the RFR website at [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org) to learn more about the annual collection.



Excerpt from the Walking Together video series.



# National Religious Retirement Office

Sponsor of the Retirement Fund for Religious

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## Stay Connected

Please send changes in address, phone, email, or congregational leadership to the NRRO, c/o Karen Cañas ([kcanas@uscceb.org](mailto:kcanas@uscceb.org)), so that we may keep our records and mailing lists updated.

The National Religious Retirement Office coordinates the national collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious and distributes these funds to eligible religious institutes for their retirement needs. Our mission is to support, educate, and assist religious institutes in the United States to embrace their current retirement realities and to plan for the future.

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