DIOCESE OF PALM BEACH
P.O. Box 109650
9995 North Military Trail,
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33410 - 9650
(561) 775-9595 | Fax (561) 775-7035
mjrodriguez@diocesepb.org

Office of The Diocesan Bishop

December 4, 2026

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

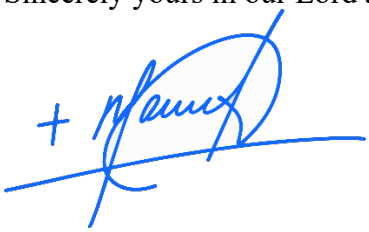
The annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious is next weekend, December 12 and 13. Since 1988, the United States bishops have directed this collection to address the deficit in retirement savings among religious communities. Nationally, the 2025 collection raised a record-setting $37.1 million, with the latest grant cycle providing $40 million in assistance to 261 religious communities.

Many of our senior vowed religious have dedicated their lives to service, usually receiving little pay in return. Consequently, their communities face a shortage of retirement savings, with nearly 19,000 aging sisters, priests and brothers depending on this help. In 2025, their average annual cost of care was approximately $62,000 per person, while skilled nursing care averaged more than $102,000. The average annual Social Security benefit for a religious was $9,390, compared to $24,856 for the average lay beneficiary.

In 2025, Catholics across the Diocese of Palm Beach contributed $196,571.31 to the collection, primarily through their parishes. I would be extremely grateful for your generous support of this worthy cause. In addition, please remember to keep all our women and men religious in your prayers.

Assuring you and all those you love of my continued remembrance in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, and commending you to the loving intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the Apostles, I remain

Sincerely yours in our Lord Jesus Christ,



Most Reverend Manuel de Jesús Rodríguez, J.C.D.
Bishop of Palm Beach