



# DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

*Office of the Bishop*

December 3/4, 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are blessed by the presence of twelve religious orders whose members serve within our diocese. **Next weekend, Dec. 10 - 11, we have an opportunity to show our appreciation for their ministry by donating to the annual Retirement Fund for Religious appeal.** Our diocese has always generously responded to this appeal – providing \$219,184 in support last year.

Religious men and women were responsible for starting and staffing many of our Catholic schools, hospitals, and social service programs. The Church continues to serve children, the sick, and the marginalized through these ministries. For many years, religious members served for little or no pay. As a result, religious orders face a profound shortage of retirement savings. They need assistance in providing care, medicine, and other necessities for their members.

Many religious continue to serve even after they reach retirement age. We are grateful for those who have given their lives to the Church. Please join me in supporting them. You can make your gift through your parish's second collection next weekend.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak  
Bishop of Grand Rapids