



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

December 2/3, 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

Women and men religious have ministered in parishes, schools, and organizations bringing the Gospel to life for decades. “Their voice has gone forth to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.” (Romans 10:18) We have certainly been blessed by the ministry of many religious orders here in the Diocese of Grand Rapids! They often served for little to no pay without retirement benefits which means that many religious communities now have difficulty providing for the retirement and eldercare needs of their aging members.

We are grateful for those who have given their lives to the Church. **Next weekend, Dec. 9 – 10, we have an opportunity to show our appreciation for their witness and ministry by donating to the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection.**

Our diocese has always generously responded to this appeal – contributing \$209,100 last year. Your support had a local impact. The Consolata Missionary Sisters received \$59,979 made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious collection. I am grateful for the support you have given to the important appeals taken up over the past few months and for what you may choose to give to this appeal. I know the men and women religious are thankful for your support. 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