



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

November 30/December 1, 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

Women and men religious have ministered in parishes, schools, and organizations bringing the Gospel to life for decades. As I reflect on their ministry, I am grateful for the impact these women and men religious have had on the faith of people here in West Michigan.

In their years of ministry, they often served for little to no pay without retirement benefits. This means that many religious communities now have difficulty providing for the retirement and eldercare needs of their aging members.

You can help with this need by donating to the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection next weekend, Dec. 7 - 8. This campaign benefits more than 24,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have been faithful servants within the Church.

Our diocese has always responded to this appeal – contributing more than \$225,000 last year. Your support had a local impact as well. The Consolata Missionary Sisters received \$82,230 made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

We have certainly been blessed by the ministry of many religious orders here in the Diocese of Grand Rapids. Now we have an opportunity to show our appreciation for their witness and ministry. The men and women religious are thankful for your support. You can make your gift through your parish's second collection next weekend or online at GRdiocese.org.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids