

November 5, 2019

Dear Pastors, Pastoral Leaders and Pastoral Coordinators:

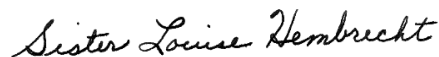
The **2019 Retirement Collection** – SHARE IN THE CARE – will take place the **weekend of December 14 and 15**. This combined collection will benefit the women and men religious as well as our senior diocesan priests. This very important collection makes it possible for our retired clergy to afford such things as much needed medications. Also, our elderly cloistered sisters depend on our generosity as they live very modestly. They work with the things they have and do not always ask for what they need.

Last year, \$182,354.12 was given to the National Retirement Fund for Religious and \$231,006.98 to our own Diocesan Priests Retirement Fund. This amount is down a little from the previous year. This year, let's all work together to increase awareness of the Retirement Collection and raise the much needed funds for the men and women who have dedicated their lives to serving our Lord and us.

In thanksgiving for all that our senior diocesan priests and religious have done, please ask your parishioners to join in supporting this Retirement Collection. Please pray for God's continued blessing on our diocesan priests, religious order priests, sisters and brothers. Know we are grateful for your continued generosity. Nationally, we are among the Dioceses that contribute the most to this collection.

To assist you in this endeavor, you are receiving parish materials from the Catholic Foundation. These materials include: posters, bulletin and pulpit announcements, a general intercession and contribution envelopes. These materials may also be found on the Catholic Foundation website at www.catholicfoundationgb.org.

On behalf of all our diocesan priests and the men and women religious in our Diocese, we offer our deepest thanks for all your efforts in encouraging your parishioners to SHARE IN THE CARE. May our loving God bless you and your parishioners abundantly.



Sister Louise Hembrecht, OSF
Representative for Religious



Reverend Luke Ferris
Vicar for Clergy and Pastoral Leaders

P.S. As our retired religious have faithfully served our Lord and us, let us now generously support them in their retirement years. Please SHARE IN THE CARE by promoting the 2019 Retirement Collection in your parish. Thank you!