



Office of the Archbishop
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Spring 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

On the weekend of June 10-11, 2017, we will take up a special collection for the Retired Priests of the Archdiocese.

In May of 2016, I ordained five men to the priesthood. This May I ordained another five men. Thirteen priests retired at the end of June 2016. By the end of this coming June, an additional twenty priests will retire. These retirements will bring our total of retired priests to 230. This will mean that close to 30% of our clergy will have reached retirement status. 35 of our retired priests are either in nursing homes or are receiving home care. I am very grateful to our retired priests who are able to continue to share their priestly ministry in our parishes. I realize that many parishes depend upon their service for daily and Sunday Masses, baptisms, weddings, funerals and countless other good works of the Church. Without the help of our retired priests many parishes would have to reduce Mass schedules and other sacramental services.

Our retired priests rely upon your help now. The Priests' Retirement and Mutual Aid Association (PRMAA) cares for our retired priests. As you know well, the cost for health care, prescription drugs and nursing home care continues to increase. This special collection in June is different from Retirement Fund for Religious collection in December. That collection supports retired men and women in religious orders. Retired archdiocesan priests do not receive any funds from that collection, which is why I am asking you to support them with this Fund for Retired Priests.

This letter give me the opportunity to share my heartfelt appreciation for the ministry and devotion of our retired priests. I also want to remember all the faithful priests who have gone to their eternal reward, and I commend them to your prayers as well.

Please know of my gratitude to you for your most gracious generosity in this collection last year and I ask that you repeat your kindness this year. Your donations, your prayers, and your good wishes are an affirmation of our retired priests and the good they have accomplished in service to the people of the archdiocese.

With every good wish, I remain,

Sincerely Yours in Christ,


Cardinal Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago