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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On the weekend of June 9-10, we will take up a special collection for the retired priests of the Archdiocese of Chicago. It is an opportunity for all of us to support these good men and to express our gratitude to them for what they have done and what they continue to do.

Currently, there are 217 retired priests. Throughout their ministry, they have stood by you as pastors and friends, celebrating your family's marriages, comforting you in the loss of loved ones and lifting you up in times of trial. Those, who are physically able, now continue to share their priestly ministry generously in our parishes. In fact, most our parishes benefit from their service for daily and Sunday Masses, weddings, funerals, confessions, and other good works of the Church. Without their help, our parish life would be greatly diminished.

Just as we have come to rely on the help of our retired priests, so now they rely on our help to support and assist them in their needs. The care of our retired Archdiocesan priests is directed by the Priests' Retirement and Mutual Aid Association (PRMAA). The PRMAA manages the health care, prescription drugs, and nursing home care for retired priests of the Archdiocese of Chicago and the significant costs associated with this support. This June collection is a separate and distinct effort from the collection for retired religious priests, sisters, and brothers that takes place in December. The PRMAA collection has a specific scope—your retired priests of the Archdiocese of Chicago and their care which is not covered by any other collection. They deserve our support.

Join me in expressing our gratitude to these priests for their years of service and the continuation of their service into retirement. Pray for our priests who have died. Pray also for an increase of vocations to the priesthood.

Finally, I want to offer a word of thanks for your generous support of our retired priests in the past. Your kindness has enabled us to do many good things for those who have served us so well. God bless you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Archbishop of Chicago