



DIOCESE *of* GAYLORD

November 5, 2024

My dear friends in Christ,

On the weekend of December 7 – 8, our parishes will take up the annual national collection for the “Retirement Fund for Religious.” This campaign is crucial, benefiting nearly 25,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have been faithful servants within the Church, devoting their lives to service.

As I reflect on their ministry, I am grateful for the impact these women and men religious have had on our faith journeys. Their devoted service to schools, parishes, and ministries throughout the world has impacted millions of people, inspiring and guiding us as we grow in faith.

Most senior religious worked many years for little pay, leaving their religious communities with a shortage of retirement savings. Rising healthcare costs and decreased income compound the challenge to meet day-to-day needs for medications, nursing assistance, and other necessities.

Your contributions to the Retirement Fund for Religious play a vital role in providing necessary financial support. This support enables religious communities to care for their aging members while ensuring that the younger generation can carry forward the invaluable work of their elders. Please consider contributing when asked and giving what you are able. Above all, I ask for your prayers for God’s continued blessings on all our women and men religious, who keep you in their prayers as well.

Together, let us support the many men and women in consecrated life who have made enormous contributions to our Church and to the world.

In Christ our Life!

Most Reverend Jeffrey J. Walsh
Bishop of Gaylord