

Why We Ask You to Help

SkYROCKETING COSTS

- There are more than 34,000 religious past age 70 living in the United States. In 2010, the average annual cost for their care was more than \$35,000 per person.
- In 2010 alone, the total cost to support senior women and men religious exceeded \$1 billion.

INSUFFICIENT INCOME

- By 2019, retired religious are projected to outnumber wage-earning religious by nearly four to one (see chart, below).
- For most of their lives, elder religious worked for small stipends. There were no 401(k) plans or pensions.
- Religious communities are financially autonomous and solely responsible for the support and care of all members. Income, earnings, and expenses are managed separately from the parish and diocesan structures of the Catholic Church.
- The average annual Social Security benefit for a religious is approximately \$4,700—roughly one-third the amount received by the average beneficiary in the United States.

How the RFR Makes a Difference

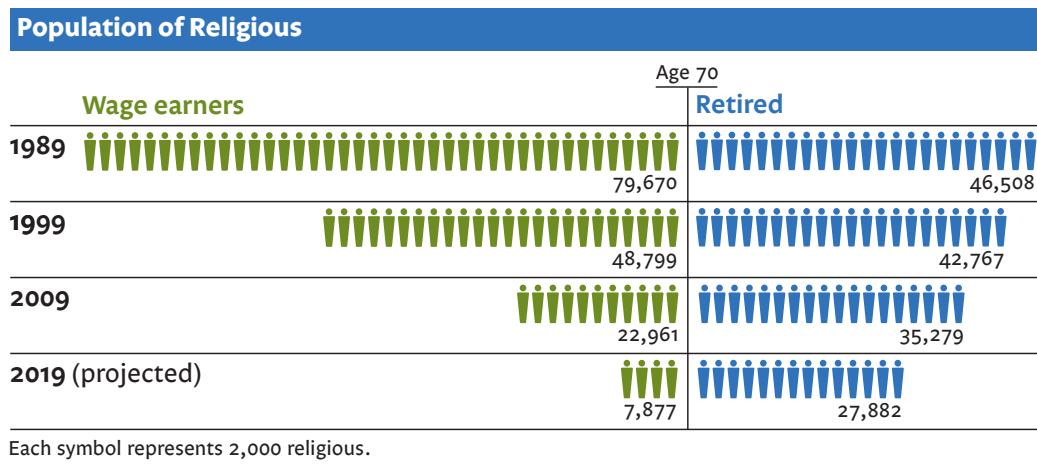
Generous Donations and Careful Stewardship

- Over the last 23 years, Catholics in the United States have donated \$643 million to the RFR.
- Approximately 93 percent of donations to the RFR aid elder religious, with seven percent or less being used for administration.

Financial and Consultative Support

- Since 1989, nearly \$540 million has been distributed to support the day-to-day care of elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.
- An additional \$67 million has been allocated toward self-help projects initiated by religious communities, including collaborative health-care facilities and comprehensive retirement planning.
- In 2009, the NRRO implemented a new process to help religious communities that are critically underfunded for retirement address their funding shortfalls. Since then, the NRRO has helped 55 communities representing more than 7,000 religious develop long-range retirement strategies.

Data on women and men religious obtained from the National Religious Retirement Office database of participating religious institutes as of December 31, 2010.



By 2019, the ratio of wage-earning to retired religious is projected to be 1:4.

Sources: Statistics for reporting years 1989, 1999, and 2009 based on data submitted to the National Religious Retirement Office by participating religious institutes; 2019 projections based on William M. Mercer Mortality Tables for Religious.



National Religious Retirement Office

Sponsor of the Retirement Fund for Religious

3211 Fourth Street NE
 Washington DC 20017-1194
 Telephone (202) 541-3215
 Fax (202) 541-3053

For campaign materials, visit:
www.retiredreligious.org