



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIocese OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

1311 BYRON STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 230
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003

November 24, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I write to ask your support of the national Collection for Retired Religious, which will be taken up in our parishes on the weekend of December 12-13, 2020.

If any national collection could be considered “popular,” both in the sense of “well regarded” and in that of being “of the people,” this one surely is. Many of us have fond memories of religious sisters and brothers who taught us or religious priests who served in our parishes and cared for our families. Now they are elderly and sometimes frail and sick and have had to withdraw from active ministry. It is our turn to serve them.

Because religious take a personal vow of poverty and historically received little more than room and board from the parishes, schools, hospitals and charitable works in which they served, they do not have the financial resources many of the rest of us have to draw upon in our old age. This national collection, therefore, is not only an act of gratitude on our part for the honorable, Christ-centered service so many religious have offered us in the Church but a practical way to assist them in their present need.

I urge you to be generous in your response to this collection. While you will be parting with some of your wealth, you will be piling up credit with the Lord, whose poverty in coming to us as man has enriched us all with boundless grace. Your help has made a real difference in the past. Make a difference this year, too.

May God bless you in this Advent season and lead you to a joyful celebration of Christ’s coming at Christmas.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Mark E. Brennan

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Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston