

Church of
ST. PETER
MENDOTA

PASTOR:

Fr. Steven Hoffman 651-452-4550
Deacon Tim Hennessey 651-905-4301

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:

Lisa Amos 651-905-4304

BUSINESS MANAGER:

Mary Jubenville 651-905-4307

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAITH FORMATION:

Kathy Raible, Director 651-905-4311
Elizabeth McCanna, Youth Coordinator 651-905-4312
Beth Halbert, Sunday School Coordinator ... 651-905-4313
Religious Education Information Line 651-905-4314

MUSIC and LITURGY:

David Dunst, Director 651-905-4323

COMMUNITY LIFE COORDINATOR:

Anne O'Keefe 651-905-4308

OFFICE STAFF:

Rita Holien, Bulletin-Website Coordinator ... 651-905-4302
Carolyn Rynders, Parish Assistant 651-452-4550

MAINTENANCE:

Tom Deshler 651-905-4322
John Raible 651-452-4550

Parish Office: 651-452-4550

Office Hours: 8 am-4 pm Monday through Friday

Fax: 651-456-0646

E-mail: church@stpetersmendota.org

Parish School: Faithful Shepherd

651-406-4747, www.fscsmn.org
3355 Columbia Drive
Eagan, MN 55121



SUNDAY MASSES (all in the Main Church)

Saturday 5 pm

Sunday 9 am and 11 am

WEEKDAY MASSES (all in the Historic Church)

9 am Monday-Friday

HOLY DAYS As announced.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Fridays, 8 to 8:45 am and Saturdays 3:30 to 4:45 pm
and also any time by appointment.

BAPTISMS, NEW PARISHIONERS, WEDDINGS

Call the parish office for more information.

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Mary LeClair. E-mail: maryleclair62@gmail.com or call the
parish office at 651-452-4550.



Reflections From Our Deacon

Waiting...

We wait in checkout lines, traffic jams and doctors' offices. We wait for our "fast" food to be delivered; we wait for babies to be born. We wait for much of what comes to us in this life. Given my own impatience, I can only imagine that the people in the region of the Jordan must have had an agonizing wait for the Messiah.

Like the people to which he preached, John the Baptist was also waiting. John was a desert preacher who waited for the unfolding of his life's mission: to announce the coming of the Savior. When the time was right, John came out of the desert and into the region of the Jordan to fulfill his mission of preparing the people for the coming of the Messiah.

John was the voice that announced the Word. The prophet Isaiah foretold John's coming when he spoke of "A voice of one crying out in the desert." John's job was to give voice to the Word. John knew himself. He knew who he was. He knew who Jesus was and what He had come to do. John had a mission, and he fulfilled it with great zeal. He prepared the people of his time for the One who would save them from their sin.

Advent is about waiting but waiting with a purpose. As much as we want to celebrate Christmas, Advent is meant to slow us down a bit and focus us inward. While the world around us is rushing to deck the halls, we are called to a quiet contemplation of what is to come.

During this brief season, our readings are rich with themes of hope. Now, more than two thousand years after Jesus' birth, we become like those faithful people who wait with anticipation, hope and longing for the promised Messiah. This season offers us a beautiful time to make that special place for Jesus in the manger of our hearts. These four weeks leading up to Christmas offer an opportunity to sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," while others are singing "Jingle Bells." It is a time to enter the silent stillness of Mary's heart, as she awaits the greatest gift the world has ever known. It is a time to be still and silent in a world that is rushing to the malls and that fails to grasp the deep meaning of this season.

John's message is "Prepare the way of the Lord." The way of the Lord leads us not to the mall but to the manger. The way of the Lord draws us deeper and deeper into the mysteries of our faith and not racing to catch the distracting news of the day. The way of the Lord is peace, hope and love. The way of the Lord is gratitude for all that God has given us, and most especially, for the gift of his Son. We are called to prepare our hearts to receive the One sent by the Father, who redeems us and brings us

home.

It is easy for us to get distracted by the twinkling lights, the Christmas carols and the pace that the world sets for us during this season. We have to work hard to create a space in our hearts to contemplate with Mary and Joseph the journey to Bethlehem. The truth is that Jesus has a gift for each of us. It won't come wrapped under the tree, and it won't be a Black Friday special at our favorite store. As we enter deeply into the mystery of the Father's love sent to earth as man, we will discover that God has something very special for us: the gift of his Son.

Advent calls us to a child-like wonder as we wait for our Savior to come among us. Advent calls us to still our hearts and to push the world out, as we draw into the quiet stillness in which He speaks to our hearts. Advent is an invitation to enter into the mystery of Mary's fiat—a leap of faith that would forever change the world. It is an invitation to trust in the messages of angels announcing the coming of great things. Advent is a circle of candles, not of red and green, but of violet and rose, which lead us in light to the humble stable.

Make time for Advent. Make time for stillness and silence. Make time for quiet contemplation of what is to come. As you open your heart more and more to the beauty of this story of our salvation, may God fill your heart with the precious gift of his Incarnate Son.

It is good to wait!

Advent blessings,

Deacon Tim

Sincere Sympathy

St. Peter's Parish extends its sympathy to the family and friends of Arthur "Tom" Mulvihill. We invite all to join us in praying that God may make him a sharer in eternal salvation.



Eucharistic Adoration

Parishioners and friends are welcome for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the Historic Church on Tuesdays after the 9 a.m. Mass until 6 p.m.

Matthew 26:40-41—Jesus said to Peter:

"Could you not watch with me one hour?"

Watch and pray."

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Rita Lew at 651-399-0921 or ritalew5@mac.com.

Christmas Pageant Registration

We have our second Christmas Pageant rehearsal on **Saturday, December 10**, from **9:30 to 10:30 a.m.** Please have children there on time. We will be meeting in the Main Church. Please contact Kathy Raible if you have any questions. We are looking for older youth (grades 5 – 12) who are willing to be in the choir or have a speaking or narrating role in the pageant.



Grade 1 & 2 Religious Education Classes

On Wednesday, December 7, the lesson for children in grade 1 at the 6:30 session and grade 2 (4:30 and 6:30 sessions) will be from the Netsmartz program, which is in accordance with the Bishop's Charter on the Protection of God's Children.

Please try to have your children at class. **Grade 2 children who are in Catholic schools** do NOT need to attend this class because they receive these lessons at their schools. Parents are welcome to join us for class. Please contact Kathy Raible at 651-905-4311 if you have any questions.

Breakfast With St. Nicholas



The Knights of Columbus will host a Breakfast with St. Nicholas in Heritage Center today, Sunday, December 4, after both Masses. Come enjoy a great breakfast of eggs, sausage and pancakes, while meeting this great saint.

Perissos

High School Youth

All high school youth are welcome to join us at Perissos, our new high school ministry. Join us on Wednesdays, in the Youth Room, from 6:30-8 p.m., as we all grow in our love of Christ and His Church. Our next meeting is December 7. For more information contact Elizabeth McCanna at 651-905-4312 or emccanna@stpetersmendota.org.

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Faithful Shepherd Catholic School Open House

Faithful Shepherd Open House on December 7

You're invited! Did you know that our parish school, Faithful Shepherd Catholic School, now has a full and part-time preschool program? Attend an open house on Wednesday, December 7, from 8:30-10:30 a.m., to learn more about the PreK through 8th grade education at Faithful Shepherd. Come anytime during the event to take a guided tour of the school, meet the staff and hear from current parents and students about their experience at FSCS. If you can't make the open house, call the school at 651-406-4747 to schedule a private tour at a time that is convenient for you!



Workcamp News

Join us this Summer for Workcamp!

All high school youth are invited to join Elizabeth, Fr. Steven and the rest of the Workcamp Team, as we travel to Covington, Tennessee from June 24 through July 1!

Spend a week being the hands and feet of Christ for the people of Covington, all while making new friends, having fun and eating lots of Dairy Queen! Fundraising starts in just a couple weeks so make sure to sign-up today! For an information packet and application, contact Elizabeth McCanna at emccanna@stpetersmendota.org or 651-905-4312.



Giving Tree

If you have chosen to purchase a gift on one of the Giving Tree dolls, please note that the **UNWRAPPED** gifts must be here at St. Peter's by Sunday, December 4, at noon. It is very important to return the gifts by the deadline, or we may not get the gifts to the recipients in time for pickup.

Thank you for your generosity. Questions about specific gift requests can be directed to Lisa Amos at lamos@stpetersmendota.org or 651-905-4304.



Other helpers are also needed. The more the merrier! There are small tasks with limited time commitments for adults and young adults, and the rewards are huge. Please consider spreading some Christmas cheer by helping with this very important project! Call Carol at 651-356-2970 to volunteer to help or for more information. Thank you!

Angel Tree Prison Ministry

The Prison Ministry program at the recent deanery meeting here prompted attendees to request information about Angel Tree, a program of prison fellowship that reaches out with the love of Christ to children of prisoners and their families. It's an opportunity to share God's love by helping to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the families of prisoners. For more information go to www.prisonfellowship.org/about/angel-tree/.

Uganda Mission Trip

Space Still Available!

We have spaces remaining for our Ugandan Mission trip scheduled for May 31 through June 12, 2017. We would love to have you join us! The trip will involve a pilgrimage to the Ugandan Martyrs Celebration as well as mission work at the schools, where we support children through sponsorships. For more information, please contact Laurie Reding at lreding1@aol.com, or by phone at 612-419-1709.

New Parishioner Dinner

All new parishioners from 2016, please save the date for our annual "New Parishioner Dinner" held on Saturday, January 7, in Heritage Center, following the 5 p.m. Mass.

Come join us for a wonderful lasagna meal and some great company. Watch the mail for your invitation coming soon!

Year End Giving

Christmas Envelopes

This year, Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. We hope that you will maintain your regular weekly support along with offering a special Christmas contribution to the parish.

Automatic Withdrawal—Electronic Funds Transfer

Please consider using our automatic giving program through our ACH program. Forms are available in the parish office or online at www.stpetersmendota.org/community/stewardship/financial-giving/.

Stock Contributions

Appreciated stock is a great way to make a contribution AND perhaps maximize your tax benefit. Please contact Mary Jubenville at the parish office at 651-905-4307.

End of the Year Information

Parishioners are reminded that all donations must be received in the parish office or postmarked by Saturday, December 31, to be included as a 2016 contribution. All proceeds from the 5 p.m. Mass on December 31 will be recorded as received in 2016. All proceeds from the 9 and 11 a.m. Masses on January 1 will be recorded as received in 2017. No exceptions can be made. If a stock contribution is to be made, be sure to allow enough time for the transaction to be completed. Stock transfer instructions are available by calling Mary Jubenville at 651-905-4307.

Christmas Flowers

We are now accepting donations for Christmas flowers in memory or honor of a loved one. If you would like to make a donation, pick-up an envelope on the information counter or in the parish office, and return it through Sunday collections or to the parish office by Monday, December 19. All names will be listed on a flyer in our Christmas bulletin.



Catholic Watchmen

All men are encouraged to attend the Catholic Watchmen monthly meeting on Thursday, December 8, at 7:30 p.m., in Heritage Center to hear Father Joseph Johnson's message on Discipline #4, How to Fully Engage in the Sunday Mass!

The mission of the Catholic Watchmen is to assist men to live up to their duty to be protectors, providers and leaders of their families. Join us for the inspiring talk and follow-up discussion, snacks and beverages. Contact Jim Lodoen at 952-707-0539 or jlodoen@lindquist.com.

PASTORAL MINISTRY

Cor Jesu

Meaning "Heart of Jesus," Cor Jesu is a moving opportunity to worship Christ in community with the Church through Eucharistic adoration, confession, praise and worship, benediction and fellowship.

Join college age and young adults for these evenings at St. Mary's Chapel at the Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity, 2260 Summit Avenue, in St. Paul, at 8 p.m. on the following first Fridays: February 3, March 3, April 7 and May 5.

Is Jesus Calling You To Be An Instrument of His Mercy?

Each December, the Office of Vocations sponsors a discernment retreat for men who are considering a vocation to the priesthood. This retreat has been instrumental for many men in finding clarity in their discernment process. This year, our retreat will be held on December 16 - 18, at Christ the King Retreat Center, 621 1st Avenue South, in Buffalo, with Archbishop Bernard Hebda and Bishop Andrew Cozzens as the Retreat Directors.

We invite men, ages seniors in high school to age 50, who have been praying about their vocation, to consider attending this retreat. We are asking of each retreatant \$75 to help defray expenses.

Catholic Charities Counseling Program Available

Catholic Charities Counseling Program has appointments readily available for adults, couples and families who are dealing with emotional turmoil, worry, stress, interpersonal conflict, anger or life changes. We accept most health insurance providers and also have sliding fee/reduced fee plans available.

Locations are in St. Paul, Burnsville and Blaine. A Men's Therapy Group meets every other Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m. in St. Paul. Please call 651-647-3100 for more information.



Advent Speaker Series

From Eternity to Eternity - Made by Love; Saved by Love; Heavenward in Love.

Come and join us for our continuing series as Fr. Steven Hoffman takes us through an inspiring and in depth look at our origins, our restoration by grace and our life in Christ in the light of God's infinite love. The goal of this three part retreat is very simple: to be rooted and grounded more deeply in love, that we may have the power to comprehend, with all the Saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth of Christ's love, that all may be filled with all the fullness of God (Eph 3:19). Come with your family and friends - all are welcome. You will never see your life the same way.

Tuesdays, December 6 & 13

6:30-8:30pm, Heritage Center

Refreshments will be provided for fellowship following each evening's talk.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Your donation works for aging religious.

"I read that roughly 95 percent of donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious aid senior religious," a donor writes. "That's wonderful when we truly want our donations to *work*." Your gift works for elderly religious by helping to furnish medications, nursing care and more. Please support next week's collection, December 10/11, for the Retirement Fund for Religious, and give to those who have given a lifetime.



Pallium Mass for Archbishop Hebda

All people of the Archdiocese are invited to attend the Pallium Mass on Sunday, December 18, at 2:30 p.m. The Apostolic Nuncio will confer the Pallium on Archbishop Hebda, at this special Mass at the Cathedral of St. Paul, 239 Selby Avenue, in St. Paul. This Pallium was blessed at Saint Peter's Basilica by Pope Francis, on the feast of Saints Peter and Paul on June 29.



Come as a Guest
Leave as a Friend

Cursillo Corner

All are welcome to attend the Cursillo Winter Retreat, which will be held January 6-8, at Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo. Register at www.tc-cursillo.org.

Future events include Sunday, January 29, at 7 p.m., at the South East Metro Ultreya, Church of St. Patrick, 3535 72nd Street East, in Inver Grove Heights.

Also, please pray about working, sponsoring or attending the next set of Cursillo weekends. This could be a life changing retreat which will deepen your relationship with Jesus. The weekends will be held at Mary, Mother of the Church in Burnsville. The men's weekend will be February 9-12. The women's weekend is February 16-19.

For more information about all Cursillo events and weekend retreats, see www.tc-cursillo.org or contact janemarie.rief@gmail.com or at 651-485-7089.

Family of Fr. Thomas Edward Shields

Providence Hospital in Washington, D.C. has discovered an abandoned Mausoleum that was found on their property. Research has revealed that the Mausoleum holds the remains of a priest who would appear to be a former parishioner of St. Peter's in Mendota.

Native son, Father Thomas Edward Shields, of Mendota, died in 1921 and was buried in a local cemetery, Mount Olivet. In 1928, his remains were moved to the current location. Working with the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. and Catholic University, they plan to return Fr. Shields to his original resting place where perpetual care and the reverence the grave deserves can be properly given.

They wish to notify any remaining family of this move but have been unable to locate anyone. If anyone knows anything of Fr. Shields' family, please contact Anne Buening by phone at 202-854-7153, or by email at anne.buening@stagnes.org. As a courtesy, they want to make certain someone in the family knows of these actions to better honor Fr. Shields.



Catholic Single Adults Club Dinner/Dance

The Catholic Single Adults Club of the Twin Cities invites all single Catholics, 21 and older, to join us Saturday, January 7, for our annual Christmas dinner and dance. A social hour and dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m.; dancing begins at 8 p.m. The cost for dinner and dancing is \$25. The cost for the dance only is \$10. Dinner reservations for a delicious buffet meal at Gulden's Restaurant in Maplewood are required by Monday, December 26. No reservation is required for dance-only participants. For dinner reservation information, please call Carl at 651-603-1412 or Greg at 651-636-3508.

Save the Date for the Cana Dinner!

Dr. John R. Buri, a professor at the University of St. Thomas, will be the featured speaker at St. Peter's Annual Cana Dinner on Saturday, February 11. A social hour will begin after the 5 p.m. Mass, and dinner will begin at 7 p.m. Dr. Buri, who has taught in the Psychology Department at St. Thomas for over 40 years, will speak on the topic, "As For Me, We Comes First."

Dr. Buri is locally, regionally and nationally a frequent speaker on subjects ranging from marriage and parenting to dating and family life. He has published over 60 articles and book chapters during his tenure. He has also published two books: "How To Love Your Wife" and "Intentional Dating; When You're Ready To Leave Behind the Liars, Losers, and Lemons – 15 Keys To Finding Love For a Lifetime."

Buri, who has taught a highly-popular course, Psychology of Marriage and the Family, for over 30 years, also works in the Archdiocese's Marriage Preparation Program. He has been married for 44 years to Kathy, his high school sweetheart. "She is the love of my life and the best thing that has ever happened to me, and I cannot imagine life without her," remarks Dr. Buri. The Buri's have six children (five sons and a daughter) and 13 grandchildren.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will begin a new course of study on Tuesday, December 6, at 10 a.m. in the Ravoux Room. This session will take an in depth look into the Book of Revelation. If you, like many, have found this book difficult and intimidating, this is the perfect setting to get to know this beautiful Scripture better! If you would like to join, please stop by the office to pick up your materials and contact Jennifer Vogel at 651-688-7427.

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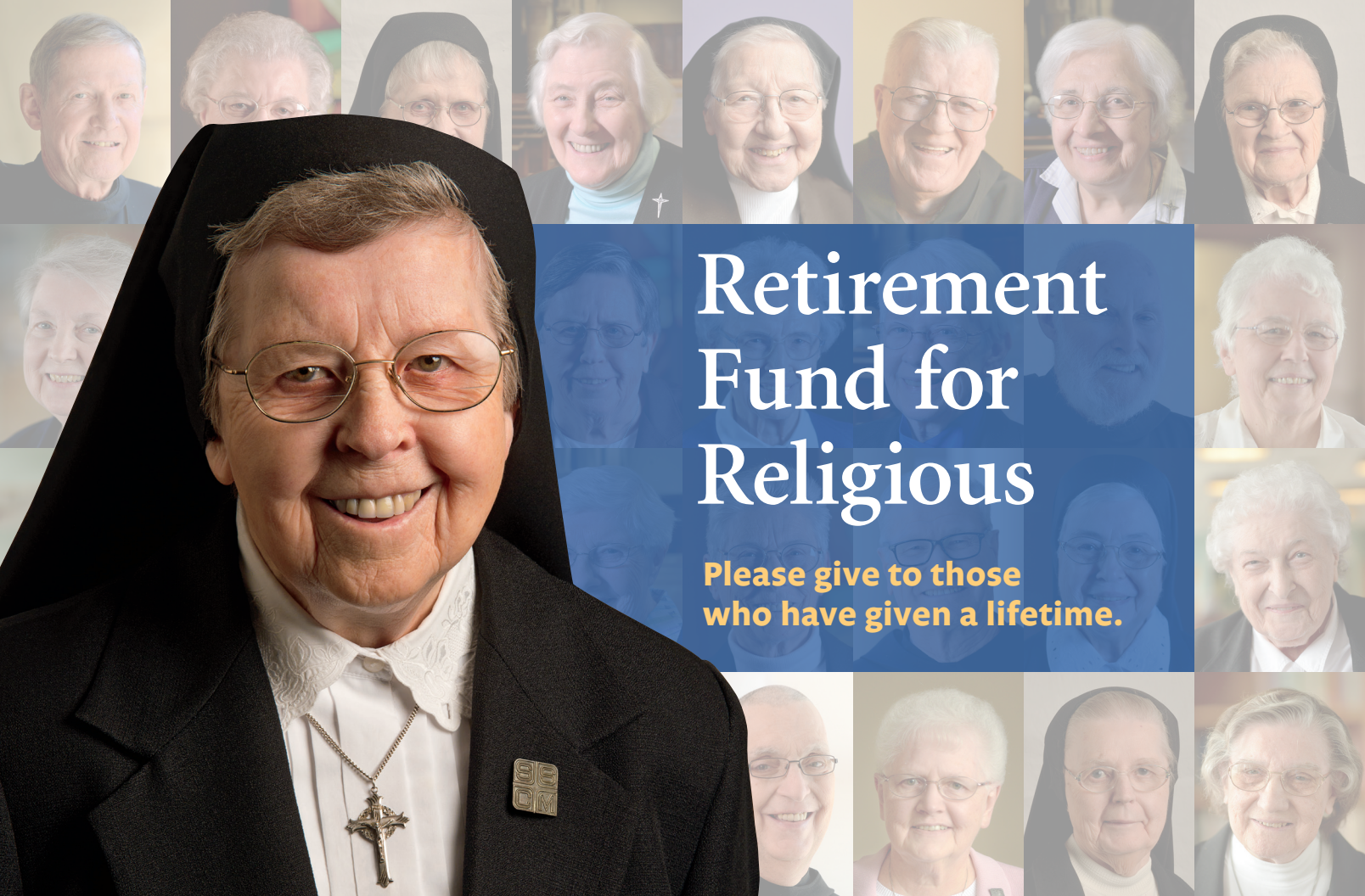
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Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

“Be faithful to your prayer life and have a sense of humor,” says Sister Rita Polchin (*foreground*), a member of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, Pennsylvania. “That’s my advice for a long, happy life.” And, at age 87, she ought to know. Throughout nearly 70 years of religious life, this philosophy has served her well, especially as she ministered in Catholic schools. “One year I had a class of 54 students,” she recalls with a smile, “but they were all good!”

Like Sister Rita, the senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests shown here—and some 33,000 more across the nation—have offered their lives in service and prayer. They have educated the young, cared for the sick, and spoken for the oppressed. Many, including Sister Rita, continue to serve. Others need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide nursing care, medications, and other necessities. Please be generous.

Roughly 95 percent of donations aid senior religious.

www.retiredreligious.org

To give at your parish: Make your check payable to your parish. (Write RFR on the memo line.)

To donate by mail: Make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious. Please do not mail cash.

Please check with your employer about matching gifts.

Amount: ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \$ _____

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Photos: (*foreground*) Sister Rita Polchin, SSCM, 87; (*background*) visit retiredreligious.org/2016photos for a list of names.
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20200416



Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos

Done a los que donaron su vida.

“Sé fiel a tu vida de oración y ten sentido del humor”, dice la Hna. Rita Polchin (*primer plano*), miembro de las Hermanas de san Cirilo y san Metodio en Danville, Pensilvania. “Ese es mi consejo para una vida larga y feliz”. Y, a los 87 años, debería saber. Durante casi 70 años de vida religiosa, esta filosofía le ha sido muy provechosa, especialmente en su ministerio en escuelas católicas. “Un año tuve una clase de 54 estudiantes”, recuerda con una sonrisa, “¡pero todos eran buenos!”.

Al igual que la Hna. Rita, los hermanos y sacerdotes católicos de órdenes religiosas de edad avanzada que se muestran aquí, y unos 33 mil más en toda la nación han ofrecido su vida al servicio y a la oración. Educaron a los jóvenes, atendieron a los enfermos y defendieron a los oprimidos. Muchos, como la Hermana Rita, continúan sirviendo. Otros necesitan ayuda. Su donativo al Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos ayuda con los cuidados de enfermería, medicamentos y otras necesidades. Sean generosos.

Cerca de un 95 por ciento de los donativos ayuda a los religiosos ancianos.

www.retiredreligious.org

Para entregarlo a su parroquia: Haga su cheque pagadero a su parroquia. (Escriba RFR en la línea del Memo.)

Para donar por correo: Haga su cheque pagadero a Retirement Fund for Religious. No envíe efectivo.

Verifique con su empleador los donativos paralelos.

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