



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Special collection planned for retired sisters, brothers and priests

GREEN BAY, Wis. (Dec. 2, 2013) – This weekend on Dec. 7-8, Diocese of Green Bay parishioners will have the opportunity to support the retirement needs of sisters, brothers and priests through the Retirement Collection, which includes the Diocesan Priests' Retirement and the National Retirement Fund for Religious.

"Through the years, so many of us have been touched by the faithful witness of many sisters, brothers and priests through our Catholic schools, hospitals and parishes," says Father Tom Long, Vicar for Ministers for the Diocese of Green Bay. "So many served with great devotion and dedication, but received little financial compensation in return. Now, in recent years, we have the opportunity to thank them for their great service. Even in their elder years, they continue to inspire and challenge all of us to deepen our faith and our commitment to serve those most in need. Our support of them allows this witness to continue."

The retirement needs are significant. Today, there are more than 34,000 members of religious orders in the United States over the age of 70, with about 16,700 under the age of 70 able to support them. Since the inception of the national collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious in 1988, Catholics around the country have been most generous, donating \$698 million over the past 25 years. The Diocese of Green Bay has been a national leader in contributions.

Here in our diocese, the majority of our diocesan priests are over the age of 70. Those who are able continue to serve sacramentally in our parishes. This collection will also benefit them.

Last year, \$260,563 was donated to the National Retirement Fund for Religious and \$203,316 was donated to our Diocesan Priests' Retirement. We are grateful for this generosity.

Parishioners are able to donate to one or both causes. A collection will be taken at local parishes this weekend, or a gift may be made through the Catholic Foundation online at [www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give](http://www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give).

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**Who we are:** The Catholic Diocese of Green Bay works to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by helping people in need and by providing academic, leadership and spiritual formation opportunities to parish and school leaders. Established in 1868, the diocese is composed of 324,000 Catholics in 16 counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago.

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