



RETIRED AND INFIRM PRIESTS' COLLECTION

LETTER FROM THE ARCHBISHOP | DECEMBER 2-3, 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

As the Archbishop of Denver, I am often grateful for the example of my brother priests with regard to how they live out their vocation with such sacrifice and dedication. Many of the priests I am speaking about are retired, and despite their inability to assist in parishes because of the physical limitations that often come with age, they continue to care for the people of God with great zeal.

Retirement for a priest means to retire from active ministry, but it does not mean to retire from priestly care for the People of God. Each day they seek to be Christ for others, and to pray for the needs of the Archdiocese.

Pope Francis once said, "In a special way, old age is a time of grace, in which the Lord renews his call to us: he calls us to safeguard and transmit the faith, he calls us to pray, especially to intercede; he calls us to be close to those in need."

Our retired priests are certainly those who pray for you and your needs. They often give their time to hear confessions and celebrate Mass in our parishes. They also give to us a powerful witness as they bear physical weakness and suffering with tremendous grace. They are a great blessing to us as an Archdiocese.

As our retired priests support all of us with their service, prayer and example, I am asking in this letter that you consider to support our retired priests by donating to the Annual Collection for Retired and Infirm Priests, which will take place in your parish the first weekend of December (Dec. 2-3).

Your contribution and generosity to the Annual Collection for Retired and Infirm Priests enables our retired priests to continue working in ministry in a variety of pastoral settings, and allows us to make sure their financial needs are covered. This collection assists many of our retired priests to cover expenses that continue to increase, such as housing and medical costs.

As we begin this holy season of Advent, please consider carefully how you can assist in the ongoing care of our infirm and retired priests. It is one way for you to show how much you have appreciated their pastoral service, spiritual leadership, and example of personal holiness.

Sincerely and gratefully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Samuel J. Aquila".

Most Rev. Samuel J. Aquila
Archbishop of Denver