

OVERVIEW

The Archdiocese is home to many retired priests who faithfully served our parishes and institutions for many decades throughout their active service. In retirement, many continue to serve in part-time ministry as they are able. The Retired Priests ministry of the Catholic Ministries Appeal provides pension and health care benefits for our diocesan priests.

BACKGROUND

Priests generally retire at age 70, or beyond, often after 40-45 years of active service and ministry - many far exceed the typical years of most professions. Our senior priests are self-supporting and can no longer rely upon the parish services that once provided basic living expenses during their years of active ministry.

Yet, many senior priests continue to lead lives of active ministry well into their retirement years, performing valuable services such as:

- Celebrating liturgies
- Ministering to the sick
- Visiting hospitals
- Providing spiritual counseling

These priests are critical to carrying out the mission and good work of the Catholic Church.

Like many retirement plans, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati is facing unprecedented challenges - similar to those of Social Security. Like many Americans today, priests are living longer, healthier lives. Living longer means drawing from the Priests' Retirement Fund - our own retirement fund - for a longer period of time. Additionally, a greater percentage of priests in the diocese are nearing the retirement age - this will place even greater burdens on the Fund.

For more information on our Retired Priests ministry, contact Michael Vanderburgh at mvanderburgh@catholiccincinnati.org.