

Dear REC Brothers and Sisters:

Often we add a request to our prayers before meals that goes something like the following, "O Lord, make us mindful of those who are especially in need." The petition is offered to help us remember and even be receptive to learning of those with special needs.

I write concerning a group of dear servants of the Lord who do indeed come to mind as those requiring our assistance. I'm referring to some of our retired clergy who are quite up in their years, and ministered in the REC before we had a pension fund. For many years, we have had annually a special offering for our retired clergy. This money is divided among them to supplement their retirement.

Furthermore, the offering helps to provide a modest Christmas gift for our retired clergy. They need to know that we will always value and remember their service in the Lord's Church. We do not forget the servants of the Lord in the REC.

Once again we ask you to give to the "Retired Clergy." They always express profound appreciation for this offering of love. They write and express just how much our thoughtful giving means to them. They tell me in my travels as they did my predecessors just how grateful they are that our church has not forgotten them.

Please consider what you and your parish might do for this offering. You may place your gift in the offering plate at church. When you donate, simply designate that this is for "retired clergy."

Thank you for acting on a prayer that we've all prayed, "O Lord, make us mindful of those who are especially in need." Your gift will make such a difference in the lives of the faithful servants of God who ministered with all they had. May the Lord bless you in your giving,

Sincerely in Christ,
The Most Rev. Dr. Ray R. Sutton

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