



DIOCESE OF  
Jefferson City

BETTER  
TOGETHER

# PRIEST RETIREMENT POLICY

*A policy providing guidance and rules  
regarding retirement planning for priests.*

1 JULY 2024

Priests of the Diocese of Jefferson City ordinarily become eligible for retirement from office at the age of 75, some as early as 70. After being granted retirement status by the Diocesan Bishop, they will no longer have direct ministerial responsibilities or assignments. However, this status also means that the retired priest will be responsible for providing his needs using his own resources. This policy is intended to help priests and their families understand and plan for retirement years.

Upon retirement, priests can expect financial support primarily from four sources:

- 1) Support from the Priests Mutual Benefit Society (PMBS), for those who are eligible;
- 2) The Priest's individual savings and contributions from the Church in the priest's diocesan 403b plan;
- 3) Social Security benefits; and
- 4) Other personal savings.

When planning for retirement, priests should consider these important factors:

**1) Housing:** Priests are responsible for arranging suitable housing for themselves immediately upon being granted retirement status. This might include renting or purchasing a home or arranging to be a senior priest in residence at a parish. Regardless of where a priest will live, it is his responsibility to make arrangements and provide for himself out of his available funds.

**2) Health Care:** Retired priests are responsible for the premium for Medicare Parts A and B. The Diocese provides retired priests with a supplemental Medicare Advantage Plan (Medicare Part C) at no additional cost to the retired priests.

**3) Diocesan Benefits Coordinator:** It is recommended for all priests to grant permission in writing so that the Diocesan Benefits Coordinator can effectively assist the priest's family or other designee during the priest's incapacity or illness. Forms are available from the Diocesan Benefits Coordinator's office.

**4) Long-term Assisted Living:** In the event that long term assisted living (or nursing home) care is required, it must be provided from the priest's own funds. Planning for this kind of care is essential as many assisted living facilities are full and have waitlists for admittance. Therefore, it is recommended to make these arrangements early.

Should a priest exhaust his personal funds, he can make an application to the Diocesan Bishop for additional assistance to provide for continued long term assisted living care. In order to receive additional assistance, the priest must turn over all relevant financial documentation in order to prove his economic need. After approval, and when his assets fall below \$5,000, as determined by the finance office (excluding funds set aside for final expenses), assistance will be provided at a facility chosen by the diocese.

**5) Final Expenses:** Priests (or their estates) are responsible for funeral and burial expenses. Funeral homes provide pre-paid funeral plans so that most of the final expenses can be taken care of without burdening the priest's family or executors. When it comes to planning, the Chancery maintains records with last directives, funeral plans, etc.