

## **PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS – ST. JOSEPH ASSOCIATION COLLECTION**



### **Pulpit Announcement #1 For weekend of April 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

On the weekend of April 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> our parish/mission along with all the parishes and missions of the Diocese will take up a special collection to support our diocesan priests' retirement fund, called the St. Joseph Association. Our senior (retired) priests of the diocese depend on pensions from the St. Joseph Association to meet their basic needs and health care costs. Like other pension plans, our priests' retirement fund is not fully funded. To help correct this shortage, all parishes and missions in the diocese are being asked to participate in a special collection that weekend. Please, prayerfully reflect on how you can best help support our diocesan priests in their retirement.

### **Pulpit Announcement #2 For weekend of April 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The Diocese of Marquette is blessed to have many senior (retired) priests who are no longer assigned to a specific parish. Many of them continue to give of themselves in countless ways of service for which we are grateful. Due to longer life spans and rising health care costs, our diocesan priest retirement fund, called the St. Joseph Association, is still under-funded. To remedy this shortfall, a special collection will be taken up at all Masses next weekend. Please prayerfully reflect on how you can best help support our priests in their retirement, and plan to give to the special collection next weekend.

### **Pulpit Announcement #3 For collection weekend – April 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Thank you again for supporting the Good Shepherd Sunday special collection held today. Those of you who are still reflecting on how you can best support our priests' retirement may return your collection envelope to the parish office or during the Masses next weekend. We will update you on our progress next week. Your support for our retired priests is greatly appreciated!

### **Pulpit Announcement #4 Two weeks following collection weekend – May 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

On Good Shepherd Sunday, our parish and all parishes and missions throughout our Diocese took up a special collection to support our priests' retirement fund, known as the St. Joseph Association. To date, our parishioners have collectively raised \$ AMOUNT . Thank you for your generosity. If you were unable to use your envelope last weekend, you may still support our retired priests by returning your envelope in today's collection or by dropping it off at the parish office.

## BULLETIN INSERTS



### **Bulletin Insert #1**

#### **For weekend of April 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The Diocese of Marquette is blessed with many senior (retired) priests (those who are no longer assigned to a parish). These men make present Christ, the Good Shepherd, and continue to give of themselves in countless ways of service for which we are grateful.

As is the case with many pension plans in today's world, our priests' retirement program is not fully funded. On Good Shepherd Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>, our Diocese will take up a special collection to support our priests' retirement and help remedy the shortfall in the St. Joseph Association. I hope you will consider using the envelope provided in your packets to support this important collection. Parishioners can also donate to the St. Joseph Association online by visiting [dioceseofmarquette.org/giving](https://dioceseofmarquette.org/giving).

### **Bulletin Insert #2**

#### **For weekend of April 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Retired priests of the Diocese of Marquette receive health and automobile insurance and a monthly pension from the St. Joseph Association, the diocesan priest retirement fund. Diocesan priests live independently during their retirement, and they use their pension for basic needs, such as food, housing and transportation. Parish assessments, plus growth in the St. Joseph Association, have fallen short of what is needed to provide necessary benefits to our retired priests.

All parishes and missions in the Diocese of Marquette will participate in a special collection on April 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> to help "bridge the gap." It is essential that we ensure adequate retirement and health coverage in the years ahead for our priests, especially in these challenging times. Please return your collection envelope during next weekends' Masses or donate to the St. Joseph Association online by visiting [dioceseofmarquette.org/giving](https://dioceseofmarquette.org/giving).

### **Bulletin Insert #3**

#### **For collection weekend – April 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

This weekend all parishes and missions in the Diocese of Marquette are holding a Good Shepherd Sunday special collection to support our priests' retirement fund, called the St. Joseph Association. This collection directly benefits priests of the Diocese of Marquette and is separate from the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which supports retired clergy and sisters of religious orders across America.

Please prayerfully reflect on how you can best help support our own priests' retirement and return your envelope in today's collection or donate to the St. Joseph Association online by visiting [dioceseofmarquette.org/giving](https://dioceseofmarquette.org/giving).

**Bulletin Insert #4****Two weeks following collection weekend – May 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

On Good Shepherd Sunday, our parish and all parishes and missions throughout our diocese took up a special collection to support our priests' retirement fund, known as the St. Joseph Association. Collectively, our parishioners have raised \$ AMOUNT to date. We truly appreciate your support. If you were unable to donate last weekend, you may still support our retired priests by returning your envelope marked for the benefit of the "Good Shepherd Collection" in today's collection or by dropping it off at the parish office. Parishioners can also donate to the St. Joseph Association online by visiting [dioceseofmarquette.org/giving](https://dioceseofmarquette.org/giving).



**April 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

- **What is the St. Joseph Association (SJA)?**

The SJA is our diocesan priest retirement fund. The SJA Board of Directors—made up of Bishop Doerfler, lay representation, and a mix of elected active and senior priests—manages and administers the pension fund for diocesan priests. The SJA Board has provided important services over the years, such as qualifying the plan under law to ensure assets are protected and regularly monitoring fund performance and benefits disbursements.

- **Why is this collection needed?**

1. Proceeds from this collection provide a critical “boost” to the SJA’s invested assets. This ensures that the SJA is able to meet its future obligations to administer pension and benefit payments to our retired priests.
2. The collection increases awareness about the SJA. Every aspect of the life and ministry of a priest is a gift from God. Our priests dedicate their lives to building up our Church. It is with tremendous gratitude that we offer our thanks and support for their service on Good Shepherd Sunday.
3. Our priests are living longer and drawing a pension for a longer period of time than their predecessors.
4. Stock market returns have not always met plan expectations.
5. Annual pension increases have not kept up with inflation.
6. Health care costs have risen dramatically.

- **How has the increase in priest retirement age and the current economic climate affected the SJA?**

The increase in retirement age from 65 to 70 years had a positive effect on the fund’s liability, but this was offset by the decline in the stock market in 2008 and continued market volatility in the years following.

- **What are the benefits of holding the Diocesan Priest Retirement Collection?**

1. The SJA inches closer to its goal of becoming fully funded, guaranteeing adequate retirement and health coverage for our retired priests.
2. Parishes are currently assessed an annual amount for each priest serving at the parish. Parish assessments are expected to decrease over time as the retirement fund grows closer to its goal of being fully funded.

- **Is this different from the annual collection for retired religious?**

Yes! The collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious supports retired priests, brothers, and sisters of religious orders and institutes across America – **not** diocesan priests. This diocesan collection directly benefits our senior (retired) priests in the Diocese of Marquette.

- **How can I give?**

Make checks payable to your parish and use either the special collection envelope for the “Diocesan Priest Retirement Fund” (found in your regular envelope packet) or mark a blank envelope for the benefit of the “Good Shepherd Sunday Collection” and drop it in the collection basket on the weekend of April 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Parishioners may also donate to the St. Joseph Association online by visiting [dioceseofmarquette.org/giving](https://dioceseofmarquette.org/giving) at any time.