



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Archbishop
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

February 10, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the Gospel of Saint Luke we will hear next weekend, Jesus proclaims His well known "Sermon on the Mount", offering the Beatitudes as a design for living our lives. In this scripture reading, Jesus relates the foundation of the central tenets for Christian discipleship.

Our priests strive to live Jesus' message faithfully through their pastoral service and sacramental ministry in parish communities, schools, and institutions. Many retired priests continue to assist parishes with great dedication. Others, due to advanced age and declining health have been compelled to withdraw from active ministry. These priests reside at Villa Saint Joseph in Darby, Regina Coeli in Warminster, as well as various other health care facilities where they continue to carry a message of hope to all by their lives of prayer and sacrifice offered for the people of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. They now depend on you for your prayers and support.

The annual Collection for the Care of Aging and Retired Priests of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will be taken in all parishes on the weekend of February 16th and 17th throughout the Archdiocese. This annual collection is an opportunity for the faithful to express their gratitude for the many blessings received through the ministry of priests. I'm very grateful for your generous response to this collection in the past. Through your continued kindness we can be assured that they will be cared for in their retirement.

Your kindness will be remembered daily in my prayers. I ask that you continue to remember our retired priests in yours. May God bless you and your loved ones for your generous response to this annual appeal.

Gratefully and with best wishes in Christ,

+Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.

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Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of February 9 and February 10, 2019. The collection is taken up the weekend of February 16 and February 17, 2019. Collection remittance should be made payable to *Archdiocese of Philadelphia* and sent to the Office for Financial Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299.)