

A Priest for Life

Since it was established in 1856, the Diocese of London has been blessed with many men who have chosen to devote their lives to the priesthood. These priests accompany us, serve us, and lead us as generations of The Faithful live our sacramental and earthly lives.

When a priest is ordained, he agrees to take on pastoral responsibility for the lives of others. He accepts and accompanies us during the happy times, such as marriage and baptism, as well as the most challenging times, such as sickness, grief, or despair. He leads us in worship. He hears our confessions. He prays over our departed loved ones. He is our shepherd pointing the way to the living Christ.

Eventually the time comes when every priest will retire, usually due to age or medical challenges. A priest will typically not retire until he is 70 to 75, if his health permits. Even after retirement, many

priests choose to continue service in many ways such as celebrating Mass at a parish when needed, hearing confessions, serving on a committee, or writing a book of religious importance.

We the people of the Diocese of London are determined to care for our retired priests in their elder years, as they have cared for us. We pray for them and, through the St. John the Evangelist Pension Fund, we help to support them financially.

This Father’s Day, please give as generously as you can.

Every dollar collected will be professionally invested and stewarded by the Fund Society, for the long-term care of our retired priests. Thank you, in advance, for your caring and generosity.

Our priests give us a lifetime of service. This Father’s Day, let’s give back.



La quête pour le régime de retrait des prêtres Priest Pension Fund Collection



(L-R: Fr. Jim Mockler, ordained 1971; the Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, CSB, ordained 1980; Deacon Rudy Pflanzner, ordained 2005; Fr. Gary Ducharme, ordained 1983. Photo by Morris Lamont.)

Message from our Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Since 2014, our diocese has taken up an annual collection to help meet the needs of our retired and elderly priests. We have the collection on Father’s Day, when we honour our fathers. It is fitting, on this day, that we also take time to reflect on the lifetime of service given by our priests, our spiritual “fathers”, and consider their future needs.

Each year, people from every parish across our diocese have expressed the care they have for our priests and their future needs. I thank you most sincerely for donating over \$283,000 last year. The average age of our priests is around 56 years. Right now is the time to plan for the future. Please give as generously as you can to this year’s collection. Your gift will be invested, expertly and

independently, in a dedicated Pension Fund.

With your help, our retired and elderly priests will have a modest pension, health and dental benefits, and an annual retreat.

Your prayers are vital. I ask you to pray for our priests, and for vocations to the priesthood. Be assured that our priests are praying for you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Ronald Fabbro, CSB*

Most. Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B.,
Bishop of the Diocese of London
Mgr Ronald P. Fabbro, CSB, Évêque de London

Pension Fund Facts:

When do priests retire?

Priests are required to inform their Bishop when they have reached the age of 70. At this time the priest may retire, or as in many cases, he may continue to serve if health permits.

Do priests save for their own retirement?

Priests are responsible for their own savings and contribute to a registered pension plan. Even so, because of their modest salary (which affects their Canadian Pension Plan) and personal almsgiving, their savings only provide for their basic needs in

retirement. Also, these savings can disappear due to a need for nursing care or medical equipment.

How does the Fund help retired priests?

The fund provides retired priests with health and dental benefits and assistance for an annual retreat, in addition to their modest pension.

How is my gift put to use?

All of the donations collected, minus basic costs such as envelopes and this brochure, are held by the St. John the Evangelist Pension Fund Society.

How you can help:

Please Pray

Please pray for our retired priests. We have provided a prayer on the facing panel, which we encourage you to cut out and keep.

Please Give

GIFT OF CASH OR CHEQUE

We invite you to prepare an envelope with cash or cheque and place it in your parish collection basket. Your gift will be added to the Pension Fund. (Cheques should be made out to your parish.)

ONLINE GIFT

A new, convenient option is simply to visit our diocesan website at www.dol.ca and click on the "Give Online" button in the upper right corner of the home-page. Just enter your credit card information, select "Priest Pension Fund," and tell us the name of your parish in the box provided. You can choose to donate one gift or smaller monthly gifts, as you see fit.

"Dear lay faithful, be close to your priests with affection and with your prayers, that they may be always be shepherds according to God's heart. And pray for those whom God is calling to be priests that they may respond to this call with humility and joy."

- Pope Francis



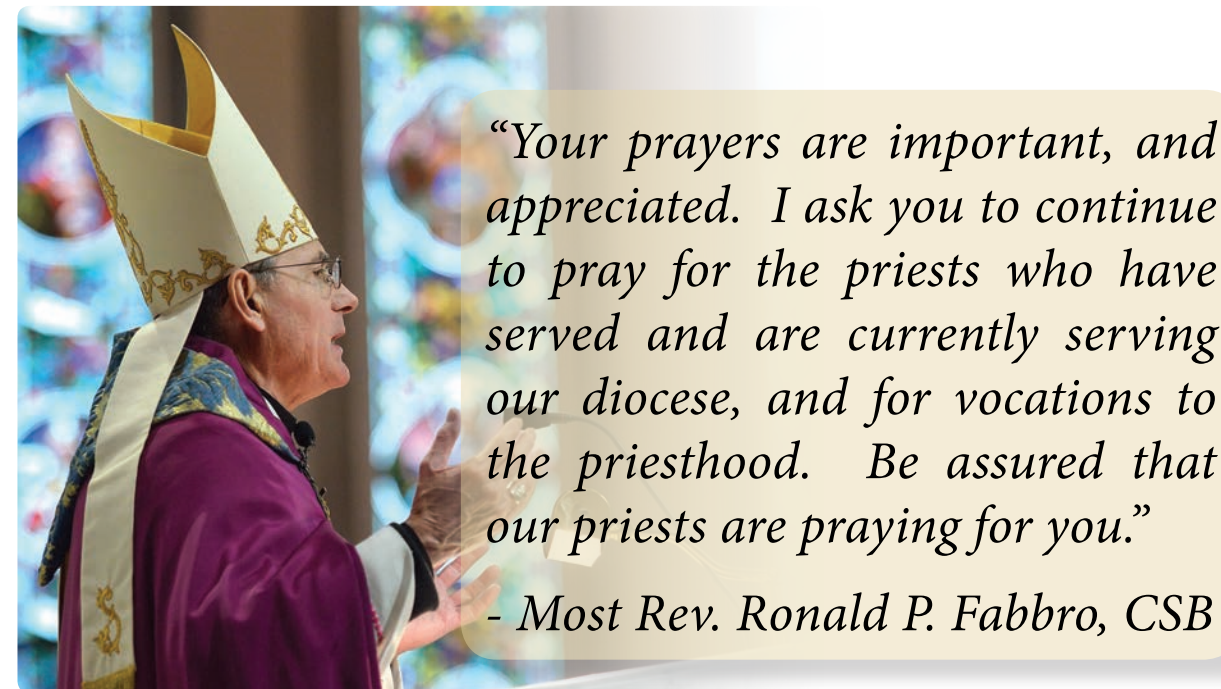
A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

When you remember the Priest Pension Fund in your will, a gift can be earmarked to be given to the pension fund to support elderly priests. Even a small percentage of your estate can make a lasting impact on the lives of retired priests.

STOCKS, SECURITIES, INSURANCE

A donation of stocks and securities, or making the Priest Pension Fund a beneficiary of your insurance plan, may be a more efficient way to donate than cash, due to tax considerations. You may be able to save on tax now and/or for your future inheritors. For more information about this kind of giving, please visit www.dol.ca/give.

**This year, two priests are eligible for retirement. Next year, seven.
In the next decade, another 40+ will be of retirement age...**



"Your prayers are important, and appreciated. I ask you to continue to pray for the priests who have served and are currently serving our diocese, and for vocations to the priesthood. Be assured that our priests are praying for you."

- Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, CSB

Prayer for Our Retired Priests

Eternal God,
Jesus Christ is the Eternal Priest,
who continually breathes new life into your Church.
For the faithful service
that our brothers have offered our diocese,
we offer our gratitude
and we pray that you watch over them in their retirement.
As they offer us an example of aging with dignity,
we trust that their example and prayers,
inspire countless others to serve your people
with fidelity and courage.
Enlivened by your Spirit,
help us to proclaim your presence as we make your reign known,
where you live as one God,
forever and ever.
Amen.