Office of the Bishop

DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK

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Christmas 2022

TO BE READ AT ALL MASSES ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY

Dear Friends,

As St. Therese of Lisieux prayed for our priests she said, "Let your holy love surround them and shield them from the world's contagion. Bless their labors with abundant fruit and may the souls to whom they minister be their joy and consolation here and in heaven their beautiful and everlasting crown."

The Diocese of Little Rock has 17 retired priests who receive monthly benefits from the Clergy Welfare Fund. Many of these priests continue a life of service by hearing confessions, pray for parishes and congregations and even substituting in parishes for pastors absent due to vacation or illness. Most of our priests work well into their 70's and beyond, caring for the spiritual life and welfare of their people. They have given us the gift of their hearts and their lives of service and dedication; let us give them the gift of assurance that their retirement days are spent with dignity and care.

The Christmas Collection in the Diocese of Little Rock is the primary source of income for the Clergy Welfare Fund. Your support will help us continue to provide benefits for our retired priests, and build the fund to meet our future obligations.

I appeal to you to join me in supporting this special collection taken at all Christmas masses. Please continue to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood in our Diocese, and for happy and healthy retirement for those who have served us so well throughout the years. Pray also for those priests in active ministry who deserve our support, encouragement, and care.

I pray daily for you and your loved ones! May you receive the peace and joy of Christ this Christmas season and every day of the coming year.

Sincerely In Christ,

+Anthony B. Taylor
Bishop of Little Rock