



*"December, month of the longest night, when minute by minute our dot on the globe is darkening. Yet darkness to me is alluring; it calls me to turn inside, to be hushed, to pay attention." – Barbara Mahany, The Stillness of Winter*

December 2021

Dear Family and Friends,

Winter tends to be a time that people slow down, pause, and allow more time for self-reflection. The same can be said for retirement, especially for the Sisters of St. Francis.

Some sisters slow down a bit as they age, reduce their work load, or even change to a less strenuous occupation. Oftentimes, health issues rather than the calendar require them to make such changes. But, though "retired," the work of carrying out the mission of living and promoting active nonviolence and peacemaking never ends.

Currently 76% of our congregation — 35 sisters — are retired. Most reside in Clinton, but there are some retired sisters living in other parts of Iowa, Illinois, California, and Oregon.

We have taken steps to provide our aging members with a worry-free retirement by making cost-effective choices and being good stewards of our resources. Additionally, it is with the loyal support of our donors that we are able to provide a simple, comfortable retirement while sustaining community life and ministry.

Sisters transition over time out of full-time ministry, but commit to prayer, volunteer work, and advocacy. Ask any of our elder sisters and the majority will tell you they don't feel "retired." It is true! Our sisters never really leave their work of prayer and service to others.

Please know how grateful we are for your love and support of our retired sisters. You have continually shown gratitude towards these religious women by your generous support to the Sisters' Retirement Fund. Your gift ensures that we can continue offering resources and services to our sisters so they can have quality care and a secure, comfortable retirement.

**We ask you to prayerfully consider helping us provide for the health care and living expenses of those sisters who are retired from full-time ministry. Your tax-deductible gift is greatly appreciated!**

Love and blessings to you and your family during this Christmas season!

Amanda Eberhart : the Sisters of St. Francis



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