

LAITY IN SUPPORT OF  
RETIRED PRIESTS, INC.

CREATING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR THOSE WHO SERVED

# LSRP NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2010

## Dear Bishops, Priests and Parishioners:

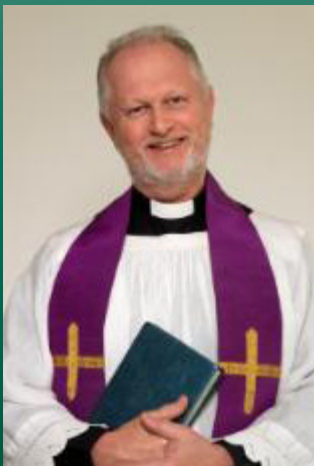
# Year of the Priest

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Laity in Support of Retired Priests (LSRP). We are a new non-profit organization that was formed to understand the issues of our diocesan priests in their retirement years. While LSRP is located in Bonita Springs, Fla., our dedicated Board of Directors hails from all over the United States. The Board of Directors is very excited to bring this newsletter to all parishioners and servants within the Catholic community.

The LSRP mission is to highlight the need for service to aid retired (senior) diocesan priests. Most parishioners are unaware of the diverse challenges faced by senior diocesan priests. Recently, multiple studies were published by the National Federation of Priests' Councils (NFPC) and Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, Georgetown University (CARA), which revealed the plight of the retired (senior) diocesan priests. They often face the same challenges older Americans face, including stress about money, proper housing and healthcare.

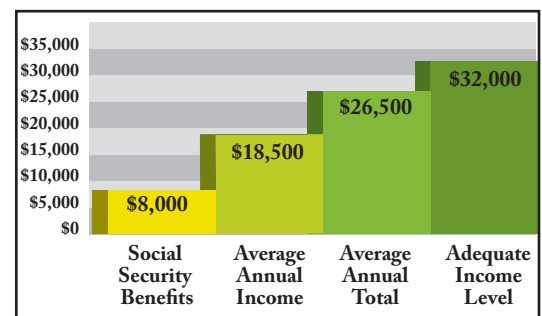
Warmest regards,

Thomas W. Hoban  
President & CEO



Below are some recent facts that have come to light about retirement issues...

- The median annual pension for all retired diocesan priests is approximately \$18,000; the average cost of living for these senior priests is estimated to be around \$32,000.
- Some pension plans are not portable, so priests can't take them with them, if they leave the state.
- Many semi-retired priests still work 30 hours per week, and often retired priests serve 14 hours per week.
- Many parishioners don't realize that the annual collection for retired "religious" does not benefit our diocesan priests.
- Communication is a major issue during retirement; some priests feel excluded after years of service. Including them in the parish or church activities can be vital to their sense of purpose.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q. What are the primary goals of the LSRP?**

1. To enhance the lives of our diocesan priests in their retirement years.
2. To create an awareness with the laity of the plight of many diocesan priests in retirement.
3. To form a national association of senior diocesan priests to deal with issues of isolation and loneliness.
4. To develop guidelines for a just and equitable pension and benefit plan.

### **Q. Does the annual special collection for religious cover diocesan priests' retirement?**

- A. No, the diocese provides for the retirement benefits of senior priests.

### **Q. What happens to priests when they retire?**

- A. Just like the general public, priests often rely on Social Security, retirement plans and family. Throughout the years, their income levels are generally low; therefore, their benefits can be lacking in some areas.

### **Q. Can they take their benefits with them no matter where they live?**

- A. This is actually called portability, which refers to the transfer of funding and/or credit to other retirement vehicles. Some dioceses do offer portability but others do not. It can be a challenge if a priest decides to move to another state after retirement. Approximately 70% of priests do not have portable benefits.

### **Q. How does a retired priest receive health benefits?**

- A. Most dioceses provide health insurance. However, many are not covered for long-term health care or for nursing home facilities.

## Year of the Priest

This year is the “Year of the Priest” as designated by Pope Benedict XVI.

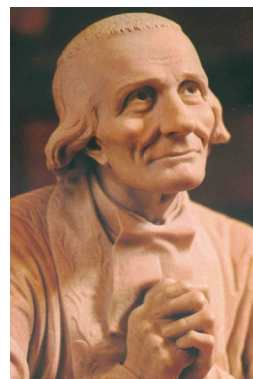
“The centrality of Christ leads to a correct valuation of ordained ministry,” stated Pope Benedict XVI. He added: “Without priestly ministry, there would be no Eucharist, no mission and even no church. Priestly ordination creates new men who are bestowed with the gift and office of sanctifying, teaching and governing. Priests must also be “present, identifiable and recognizable — for their judgment of faith, their personal virtues and their attire — in the fields of culture and charity, which have always been at the heart of the church’s mission.”

The Pope said he was calling for the special year for priests in an effort to foster the priest’s yearning “for spiritual perfection, upon which the effectiveness of their ministry principally depends.” “The awareness of the radical social changes over the past decades must stir the best ecclesial energies to look after the formation of priestly candidates,” the Pope said.

Great care must be taken to ensure permanent and consistent doctrinal and spiritual formation for seminarians and priests, he said, specifying the importance of passing down, especially to younger generations, “a correct reading of the texts of the Second Vatican Council, interpreted in the light of all the church’s doctrinal heritage.”

During this jubilee year, the pope also proclaimed St. John Vianney to be patron saint of all the world’s priests. He is considered the patron saint of parish priests, and this year marks the 150th anniversary of the death of this 19th-century saint who represents a “true example of a priest at the service of the flock of Christ,” the Pope stated.

*Source: CNS*



**Saint John Vianney**  
Patron saint of priests



## How You Can Help

If you are part of the general public and are interested in helping the Laity in Support of Retired Priests either by volunteering, donating or holding a fundraiser we need your help!

Our grassroots program for retired priests is completely unique within the United States. We strive to give back to the bishops and priests who have given us so much throughout the years, and have asked for so little in return. On behalf of many retired priests and bishops in the United States, we thank you for your support.

To donate any amount, please return the enclosed envelope. Or you can choose to donate via credit card at [LSRPinc.org](http://LSRPinc.org).

## Contact Us

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LSRP was incorporated in the state of Florida in July 2007 as a not-for-profit corporation. LSRP, Inc. has been approved by the IRS as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.



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