

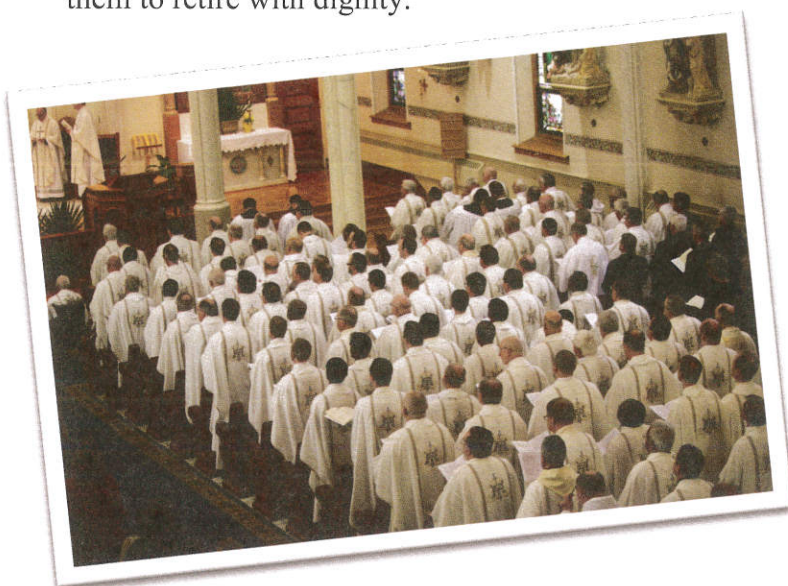
Increase the Priest's Retirement Benefit

\$4 million

As the primary spiritual leaders of parish communities, our priests deserve support in retirement. Currently, the Diocese of Fargo has 45 priests who receive retirement benefits. In comparing our priest's retirement benefits to thirteen neighboring dioceses, the Diocese of Fargo is ranked low in terms of financial support to our retired clergy. The diocese would like to increase the monthly retirement benefit to our retired priests to adjust for inflation as well as to be more aligned with our neighbors.

Without being extravagant, we hope to bring the retirement benefit up to at least the average benefit of other dioceses. This increase will ensure our priests, who have dedicated their lives and served us, will have the funds needed for basic needs during their golden years.

In addition to the 45 priests receiving benefits now, 38 more of our current active diocesan priests will be eligible for retirement benefits within the next ten years. While many will continue with their priestly duties well beyond retirement age, we must prepare for ever-increasing living costs and provide a benefit that allows them to retire with dignity.



Strengthening Parishes

TBD

Though the Catholic Church is truly universal, we most often experience the life of the Church in our local parish. It is at the local parish level that the healing, teaching, reconciling, and sanctifying mission of Christ becomes most evident. Every parish faces its own challenges and goals. Some parishes may require new buildings, restoration, maintenance, repair, or renovations. Other parishes are looking to reduce debt, while some are striving to establish endowments or invest in current or new ministries and programs. A financial return for each parish would be essential in a campaign. Every parish will have a financial target based on their offertory income. As funds are raised, a significant percentage of funds raised will provide for the parish. In this way, both the diocese and each individual parish will benefit from a successful campaign.

As we move forward with this feasibility study and possibly a capital campaign, it will be a historic effort. We understand that we may not be able to address all of the needs as a diocese, but with a successful study and campaign, measures will be taken to ensure that the needs of our clergy are addressed and addressed well. We rely on your input, thoughts and suggestions in developing this case statement as we work together as the Church in the Diocese of Fargo.

