

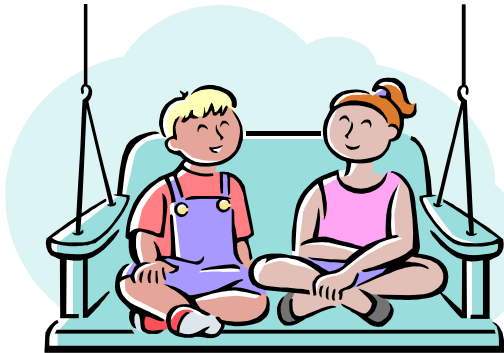


Retirement Fund for Religious

Summer 2010 Newsletter

Volume 23, No. 2

Memory Lane



Summer has a way of making us long for simpler times. We may remember with melancholy the years of our youth, when hot, hazy days forced us to slow down a bit. Life without air conditioning drove us outside, not in, and long evenings were spent cooling off on the porch. Talk of the “old days” gave us reason to linger.

For many of us, summer now is just as hectic as the other months of the year. We may squeeze in a little vacation, but even that is sandwiched between conferences, meetings, and deadlines. At the NRRO, we face the same challenges, but a letter we received recently gave us a moment to pause. The letter was shared by Sister Joseph Angela Boone, OSU, Chancellor of the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky, and a coordinator for the Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR) collection. It was written in 1934 by a member of Sister Joseph Angela’s religious community and describes in great detail why parents needed to remit the tuition fee of \$1.00 a month for their students at St. Denis School in Louisville, Kentucky.

The letter brought a smile to our faces and sparked memories of our own days in Catholic school. It also made us, once again, recall with gratitude the selfless service of countless senior women and men religious. So, while we can’t bring back the summers of yesterday, we offer this trip down memory lane as a brief mental vacation. We hope it will remind you not only of days gone by but also of the sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who may have been part of your own childhood.



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September, 1934

Dear Patron:-

At the close of the first month of the new school year, when the children are expected to make their first remittance for tuition received, I deem it advisable to lay before you, for your kind consideration, the following facts:

Our Rev. Mother Superior sends out her Teaching Sisters with the understanding reached between herself and the Right Reverend Bishop,

- 1 That the school year is to consist of 40 weeks, Sept.3rd to June 15th
- 2 That each Teacher is to receive for these 40 weeks a total Salary of \$300.00
- 3 That each Teacher is to use half of that salary for her daily living expenses, and forward the other half to the Rev. Mother Superior, to be applied partly to the individual Teacher's other expenses (clothing, Doctor bills, etc) and the remainder to be used for overhead expenses of the administration of the community.
- 4 That each Teacher must collect the appointed tuition fee from the pupils of her class room and not burden the pastor with supplying an eventual shortage in the teacher's appointed salary of \$300.00 per year.

A Teacher's salary of \$300.00 for 40 weeks equals \$7.50 for one week, \$1.50 for each school day, 30 cents per hour (5 class hours per day); which amount is about what you would pay for unskilled labor.

Of her weekly earnings of \$7.50, \$3.75 are to cover each Sister's living expenses for 7 days, which is 53 cents per day; the other \$3.75 I must forward to the Mother house, as stated above. You will admit that only the closest economy enables me to feed a sister on 53 cents a day.

These obligations, devolving on me, by reason of House Superior, towards the Sisters that teach your children on the one hand, and the motherhouse on the other, make it necessary that each child should pay 1 cent for every class hour, or 5 cents for every school day, which makes 25 cents for every school week, or \$1.00 for every 4 weeks.

Surely you will admit that the care, instruction and educational advancement which each child receives, is worth at least 1 cent per hour.

This amount at the rate of 1 cent per hour, or 5 cents per day, or 25 cents per week per child, you may remit each week, or for 4 weeks in advance, as may best suit your convenience.

Respectfully Yours,

September 1934

Dear Sisters:-

At the close of the first month of the new school year when the children are expected to make their first remittance for tuition received, I deem it advisable to lay before you, for your kind consideration, the following facts:

Our Rev. Mother Superior unites out her Teaching Sisters with the understanding reached between herself and the Right Reverend Bishop.

- 1 That the school year is to consist of 40 weeks Sept. 1st to June 15th
- 2 That each teacher is to receive for these 40 weeks a total salary of \$300.00
- 3 That each teacher is to use half of that salary for her daily living expenses, and forward the other half to the Rev. Mother Superior, to be applied partly to the individual teacher's other expenses (clothing, doctor bills, etc.) and the remainder to be used for overhead expenses of the administration of the Community.
- 4 That each teacher must collect the appointed tuition fee from the pupils of her class room and not burden the pastor with supplying an eventual shortage in the teacher's appointed salary of \$300.00 per year.
- 5 That a teacher's salary of \$300.00 for 40 weeks equals \$7.50 for one week, \$1.50 for each school day, 30 cents per hour (5 nine hours per day); which amount is about what you would pay for unskilled labor.
- 6 That her weekly earnings of \$7.50, \$1.50 are to cover each Sister's living expenses for 7 days, which is 22 cents per day, the other \$3.75 I must forward to the Mother Superior, as stated above. You will admit that only the closest economy enables us to feed a Sister at 22 cents a day.
- 7 Those obligations, involving on my part, on the part of Mother Superior, and the Motherhouse on the other, make it necessary that each child should pay 1 cent for every class hour, or 5 cents for every school day, which make 33 cents for every school week, or \$1.65 for every 4 weeks.
- 8 Surely you will admit that the mere instruction and educational advancement which each child receives, is worth at least 1 cent per hour.
- 9 This amount at the rate of 1 cent per hour, or 5 cents per day, or 25 cents per week per child, you may remit each week, or for 4 weeks in advance, as may best suit your convenience.

Respectfully Yours,

Message from the Executive Director

Ah, the good old days! We all reminisce about them from time to time. Among religious, journeys down memory lane typically include tales of novitiate life—stories of scrubbing floors and washing windows, of singing practice and organ lessons, and, particularly entertaining, of making mistakes and making mischief. Other favorites are often classroom anecdotes, such as the challenges of teaching forty to sixty students per class or the funny things students said and did. Often, these recollections include sagas of pinching pennies and stretching dollars.

The \$300 annual salary and the \$1 monthly tuition referred to in the letter printed on page 2 are certainly the “stuff” of the good old days. Though the letter was written in 1934, Sister Joseph Angela Boone, OSU, remembers teaching in the same school in 1951—for the same \$300 stipend. As a child in the late 1950’s and early 1960’s, I can recall bringing my monthly tuition envelope with \$2 enclosed. Perhaps many of you have similar recollections.

In days gone by, the meager cash compensation for religious was supplemented by rent-free use of the parish convent and, often, by donations of food. Heartfelt gifts of chickens,

eggs, produce, and canned goods were gratefully received by religious who, though cash poor, considered themselves richly blessed.

Among the legends of my own community is a story of our Sister Benildis. On her way to Mass one Sunday morning, a parishioner handed her a bag with “a chicken for the sisters’ Sunday dinner.” Not wanting to be late, she hurriedly returned to the convent, stuck the bag in the refrigerator, and ran off to church. When she returned, she was surprised to find a live chicken in the refrigerator, feasting on what was to have been the Sunday salad!

Many women and men religious, whose stories bring smiles to our faces and gratitude to our hearts, now are among the retired. Unfortunately, the in-kind compensation of their youth could not be saved for retirement years. And while their communities still may be cash poor, elder women and men religious have no regrets.

They realize that their hard work and sacrifices made possible education, health care, and social services for generations of Catholics. They were happy to witness to their faith with the gift of their lives.

Today, these religious are thankful to individuals who remember their service and who choose to “share in their care” through donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR).

Even in 2009, when so many in our nation faced financial struggles of their own, gifts to the RFR exceeded \$28.1 million. Elder religious gratefully accept this support and, as always, consider themselves profoundly blessed. They continue to offer what may be their most valuable service of all—daily, prayerful remembrance of all those who share so generously.



May our loving God bless you, Sister Janice Bader, CPPS



Reminder for Diocesan Coordinators

The open period for requesting the **2011 RFR collection materials** extends until midnight September 15, 2010

Visit www.nationalcollections.org to update parish and collection information and to request materials. If you need assistance, please contact Beth Kennedy, RFR Project Manager, bethkennedy@retiredreligious.org.

Thank You!



Help NRRO Go Green

If you are not already receiving this newsletter electronically and would like to do so, please contact us at retirement@uscgb.org to have your e-mail address added to our distribution list.

Thank you

Please send changes in address, phone, e-mail or congregational leadership to NRRO c/o Jean Smith (jsmith@uscgb.org), so that we may keep our records and mailing lists updated.



Thank You!



If you would like to make a bequest or restricted gift to the National Religious Retirement Office, the following information should be used:

To the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Incorporated for the exclusive purpose of assisting Roman Catholic religious orders in the United States to provide for the retirement needs of their elderly members.

National Religious Retirement Office
3211 4th Street, NE
Washington, DC 20017-1194
Phone: (202) 541-3215
Fax: (202) 541-3053
www.usccb.org/nrro
or
www.retiredreligious.org

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Direct Care Assistance Checks totaling \$23,040,427.40 were distributed in June to religious communities for the care of their elder members.

Many thanks to our donors who made this assistance possible. You are remembered daily in the prayers of all our senior religious.



Höszönettel

Obrigado!

Merci

Gracias

Vielen Dank

Grazie

Request for Help

You can help us to make the 2010 appeal a success. Please consider one of the following:

1. Offer to speak about the Retirement Fund for Religious in your parish
2. Send an email or letter to your pastor thanking him for past support of the RFR. Share a memory of religious with him that he could use to promote the appeal.



CALENDAR

Deadline for requesting the 2011 RFR collection materials	September 15, 2010
RCRI National Conference, Anaheim, CA	September 14-17, 2010
Planning and Implementation Workshop, Marriottsville, MD	September 21-23, 2010
NRRO Consultant Training, Washington DC	September 28, 2010
CMSWR Assembly, Belleville, IL	October 21-24, 2010
Small Communities Workshop, St. Louis, MO	October 18-20, 2010
Retirement Fund for Religious National Collection Date	December 11-12, 2010



National Religious Retirement Office
3211 4th Street, NE
Washington, DC 20017-1194
Phone: 202-541-3215
Fax: 202-541-3053
Website: www.retiredreligious.org
E-mail: retirement@usccb.org

The National Religious Retirement Office coordinates the national collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious and distributes these funds to eligible religious institutes for their retirement needs.

The National Religious Retirement Office supports, educates and assists religious institutes in the U.S. to embrace their current retirement reality and to plan for the future.



NRRO Staff: L-R, Sr. Janice Bader, CPPS; Jean Smith; Br. Bob Metzger, SM; Br. Hank Sammon, FMS, JCL; Monica Glover

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
National Religious Retirement Office
3211 4th Street N.E.
Washington, DC 20017-1194

U.S. Non-profit Organization
US Postage Paid
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