

**Call out:** Retired priests serve us through prayer and often assist in our parishes.

**Headline:** *Encountering Christ* supports our retired priests

The priests of our diocese give their lives in service to our community of faith. They baptize our babies, witness our marriage vows and preside at the funeral Masses of our loved ones. They provide pastoral care and leadership integral to our parishes, schools, missions, hospitals and other ministries.

Even when their years of active ministry end, these holy men never retire from their vocation to the priesthood. They continue to serve us through prayer and often continue to assist in our parishes. Oftentimes, they seem to be busier in retirement celebrating the sacraments and helping out their brother priests!

To assist priests during their retirement, the Austin Pension and Plan and Trust was established several years ago.

The diocese currently has 38 retired priests, with another 40 within 10 years of retirement age. The pension plan and trust provides a steady income that retired priests can use for their housing and living expenses. However, this plan is currently underfunded for the number of priests who will access it in the future. *Encountering Christ* will add \$5 million to the pension plan and trust to meet the anticipated shortfall.