

***Encountering Christ* to expand residence for retired priests**



The diocese will allocate \$2 million from *Encountering Christ* to construct four additional duplexes to accommodate another eight priests, bringing the capacity to 24.

The holy men who dedicate their lives to serving us need our support in all stages of their journey, from their seminary years through retirement.

Our diocese currently has 38 retired priests, with another 41 within 10 years of retirement. Even when their years of active ministry end, these men never retire from their vocation to the priesthood, often continuing to serve in parishes and living a life of prayer.

Since most priests reside in rectories, many lack housing once they retire from pastoral ministry. The St. John Paul II Residence for Priests provides a comfortable home and close-knit community for 16 retired priests of our diocese. They share Mass, meals and activities; access transportation to and from appointments; and receive care and support for medical needs. Residents benefit from the balance of independent living and fellowship.

The residence will not have room for the number of priests who will retire in the coming years. The diocese will allocate \$2 million from *Encountering Christ* to construct four additional duplexes to accommodate another eight priests, bringing the capacity to 24.