

**2018 Shepherds’ Trust Pulpit Address**

Good [morning/afternoon],

It is with great pleasure that I have been given the opportunity to speak to you about the Shepherds’ Trust collection. The Shepherds’ Trust has a mandate to provide comfort and care for those who have cared for each of us – our retired priests. These men have selflessly served our family of faith as pastors, mentors and friends.

They are present in times of joy, presiding over marriage ceremonies and supporting couples in their ongoing call to family life. Through baptism, they welcome our children to our faith.

They are also by our side to administer the Sacrament of the Sick to ailing family members, while consoling and providing strength during these periods of uncertainty and great sadness. Their lives are a reflection of Christ’s love for us and the Church.

Now, in their retirement years, they need our support. To help our retired shepherds, this means our “Lending a Hand” to accommodate their special needs so that they continue to live with dignity. Together, we can ensure our priests experience a modest, dignified retirement. We have the opportunity to care for those who have always cared for us.

In order to make that happen, every year, as a sign of appreciation and care, parishioners from across the Archdiocese donate to the Shepherds’ Trust. I hope you will join in that effort today.

Please read the Shepherds’ Trust newsletter for more information on the various ways you can make a gift to Shepherds’ Trust.

Thank you for your support and God bless you.