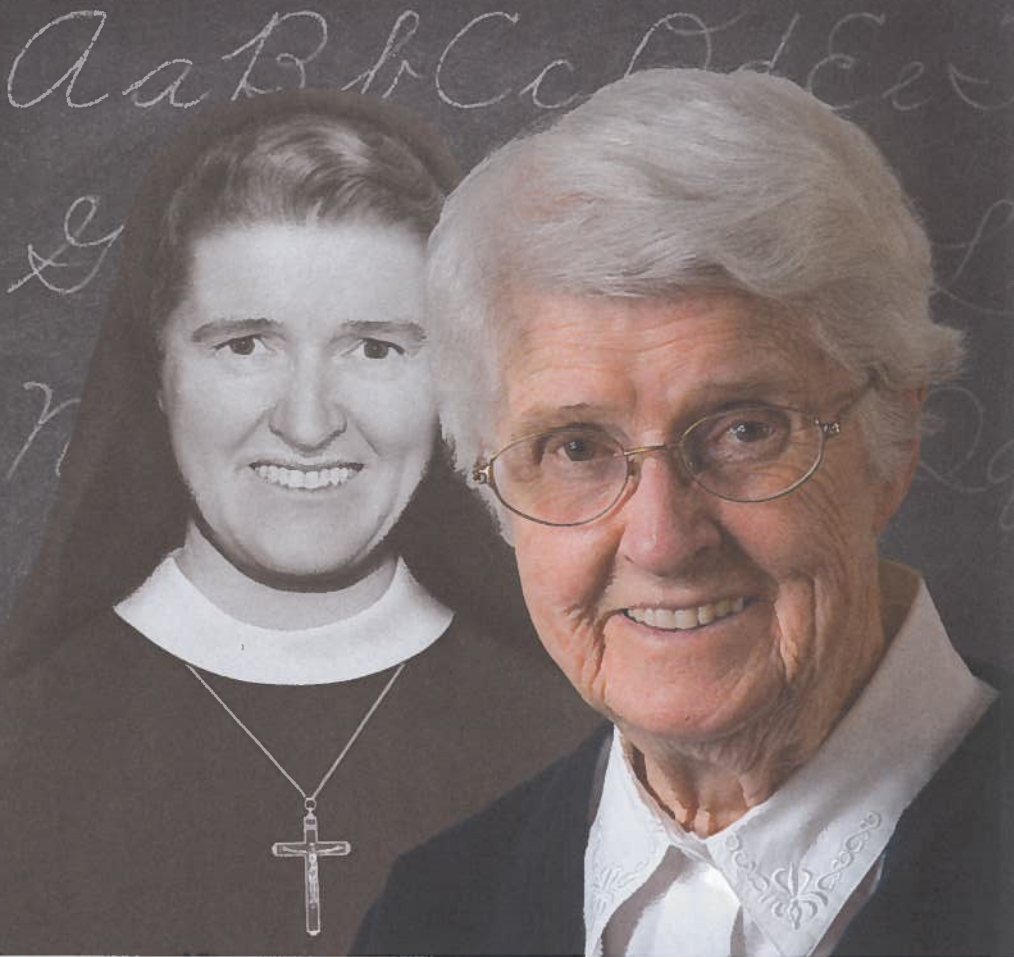


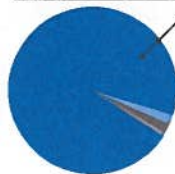
"I'm recycled, not retired," says Sister Rita McNally, 88, a Sister of St. Joseph of Chambéry. That's an apt description, given that her days are filled with collecting goods for the poor, tutoring, and visiting the homebound. Since entering her community in 1941, this former educator and missionary has spent her life serving others. Today, Sister Rita and some 34,000 elder Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests benefit from the Retirement Fund for Religious.



Retirement Fund for Religious Share in the Care

Like Sister Rita, thousands of senior women and men religious worked for small stipends. Their sacrifices over many decades now leave their religious communities without adequate savings for retirement and elder care. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for prescription medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

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2012 Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule

Monday, December 24

4pm Family Eucharist & 7pm Children's Eucharist at Lourdes

Christmas Midnight Mass

Monday, December 24

At Ebenezer (Horizon Sanctuary)

Music program w/caroling begins at 11pm

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25

10am Eucharist at Lourdes

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sunday, December 30

Regular Services: 8am, 10am, and 12pm

New Year's Eve— Watchnight Service

Monday, December 31

11pm Eucharist at Lourdes

New Year's Day (Feast of Mary, The Holy Mother of God)

Tuesday, January 1

10am

2 December

God sends love not viruses

"My eyes are ever towards the Lord, for he will pluck my feet out of the net."

Psal/m 25.15

I hear some people saying: "AIDS is God's punishment for sinful societies and sinful people." But this is the language of ignorance, due to a lack of education and information. AIDS-related illnesses do not "fall from heaven"; they are caused by a virus that knows many very different ways of transmission. People who say such things are looking for an explanation of a threatening phenomenon that makes them feel that they are standing on the 'safe side'.

However, a virus doesn't stem from God. He is not the source of anything evil. He is - as the psalmist underlines - the source

of graciousness and compassion, the source of life. People facing challenges and even misery can especially trust in his promise to take their side - regardless of whether they "earn it" or not. Indeed, no-one earns God's love - yet he offers it to all people. That is the Good News Jesus brought us.

"Dear God, I have not earned your love and yet you bestow it freely for all. Thank you!"

Rev. Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel is President of Bread for the World in Berlin, Germany.