

ARCHDIOCESAN FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR RETIRED PRIESTS NEEDING ASSISTED LIVING OR SKILLED NURSING CARE

The cost of assisted living and skilled nursing care for Archdiocesan retired priests constitutes both a burden and a worry for priests as they enter into their retirement years. Because of the lifetime of service given to the people of our local Church by our retired priests, it is appropriate that the Archdiocese share a part of that burden. It is important that Archdiocesan financial support for this purpose be governed by four principles:

- 1) The Archdiocese can and should provide a substantial share of the cost of assisted living and skilled nursing care for every priest in need of such care;
- 2) The Archdiocese should ensure that no priest is precluded from receiving quality care because of financial limitations;
- 3) Archdiocesan policy should flow from the recognition that many priests have substantive financial resources beyond their pension and social security benefits that could meet some of the cost burden of assisted care/skilled nursing; and
- 4) The finite monies available for the needs of retired priests should be applied among the competing priorities of pension, health care, and housing on the basis of where those funds are most needed.

In light of these principles, the Archdiocese will provide to every priest in need of assisted living or skilled nursing care a housing allowance paid to the facility where the priest is going to receive the prescribed assistance and care. This assisted living/skilled nursing housing allowance will be the lesser of: One-half of the monthly costs of the assisted living/skilled nursing facility; or an amount equal to the monthly pension benefit of a fully vested priest of the Archdiocese who has served for thirty years. Any priest who is unable to pay for quality residential or skilled nursing care with the help of this basic care allowance, the regular Archdiocesan pension, Social Security and his other financial resources may apply for additional financial assistance from the Archdiocese. This application will entail a comprehensive review of the applicant's financial resources, and the principle governing that review would be that no priest should be unable to obtain quality care because of financial limitations.

EXAMPLE #1:

Father Douglas is charged \$3322 per month for his assisted care at Drake Terrace. Effective July 1, 2022, the Archdiocese will pay the lesser of one-half of the monthly cost (\$1,661), or an amount equal to the current gross pension – regardless of the size of his own pension (the gross pension is now \$2,738).

DECISION: The Archdiocese will send \$1,661.00, and Father must pay the balance of \$1,661.00 each month.

EXAMPLE #2:

Fathers Gene, Wally and Stan are charged \$6,800, \$8,900, and \$7,800, respectively, for their assisted living rooms at Alma Via each month. The Archdiocese will pay the lesser of one-half of the monthly cost (\$3,400, \$4,450, and \$3,900), or an amount equal to the current gross pension – regardless of the size of his own pension (the gross pension is now \$2,738).

DECISION: The Archdiocese will send \$2,738 for Father Gene, \$2,738 for Father Wally, and \$2,738 for Father Stan to Alma Via.

EXAMPLE #3:

Father Phil is charged \$7000 per month for his assisted care and has no other financial resources beyond a very low monthly pension and a low social security payment.

DECISION: The Archdiocese will send \$2,738 (the amount of a current gross pension) for his assisted care, and in addition, he will need to submit his financial records to the Office of the Vicar for Clergy for additional help. The Vicar for Clergy will return a determination that a specific monthly contribution will be made on his behalf to the facility, in view of principles #1 and #2 outlined above.