

# Health & Retirement

## Retiree costs concern religious

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Unless religious orders build up financial assets for retirement, all their resources in the future will go to the costs of caring for aging members, according to a recent nationwide mortality study.

The study by William M. Mercer Inc., a Baltimore-based worldwide actuarial and human resource consulting firm, looked at the life expectancy of members of religious orders and their changing demographics during the five-year period from Jan. 1, 1989, to Dec. 31, 1993.

The study was carried out in collaboration with the Tri-Conference Retirement Office, a joint project of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the Conference of Major Superiors of Men. A fourth group, the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, joined the project later.

According to the study, members of religious orders generally live longer than men and women outside religious life.

The average age of death for a sister currently age 37 is 85, for example, while the average age of death for a female member of the U.S. population

currently age 37 is 80 years old, the study found.

Similarly, the average age of death for a religious priest or brother currently age 31 is 78, while the average age of death for a male member of the U.S. population currently age 31 is 74.

The study also found that more Catholic religious died than entered religious orders during each of the five years studied: In 1993, for example, 2,068 women religious were reported to have died and only 212 new members entered women's religious orders. In the same year, 357 men religious were reported to have died and 156 members entered their orders.

If current trends continue, religious orders in a little more than 20 years will be half the size they are now, the Mercer

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study said.

"Religious orders have to make significant additions to their retirement funds as soon as possible," said Dennis H. Tidline, a consultant at William M. Mercer. "If they want to continue their mission and ministries in the future, they have to build up their retirement assets now. Otherwise they will be consumed with just caring for their aged and infirm members."

## Compulsive series at Fisher July 24-28

PITTSFORD — St. John Fisher College, 3690 East Ave., will hold a five-day series of interactive workshops on compulsive behavior later this month.

The Summer Institute on Compulsive and Addictive Behaviors, slated for July 24-28, is intended for professionals working in the field of addictions. The institute will include 10 half-day workshops at a cost of \$30 each or \$275 collectively.

The series will focus on current methods for identifying, assessing, treating and preventing addictions.

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## Politicians Come and Go Families are Forever

### Jann Armantrout Believes in Families

Jann knows, first hand, what it takes to keep a family strong and healthy today. Preserving middle class benefits like Medicare and Social Security is important to her. If we allow the erosion of the middle class to continue, what will life be like in the year 2,000 — just five years away.

### She Knows that Good Government is Possible — and Necessary

Government is only as good or bad as the people within it. Good government can provide a safety net for the average family. SSI can help keep a child with developmental disabilities at home. When Jann's mother-in-law broke her hip, government-assisted funding of Home Health Aides allowed mom to heal properly without subjecting the family to financial ruin. Thanks to Medicare, a brother's life was saved through dialysis and a successful kidney transplant. Regular families sometimes need help when extraordinary events occur. Jann believes that government should help to protect life from womb to tomb. As the federal and state governments push more responsibilities to localities, we need people like Jann in government.

### Government Can and Should Do Its Job

Older people, young families, and people with chronic disabilities are becoming frightened of the future. It wasn't always like this. This time, don't let the politicians off the hook. Hold them accountable. If they can't do the job, find someone who can.

### Vote Armantrout in Webster

Jann knows first hand the challenges of family life. Jann has proven experience making government programs work. She will bring that expertise to the county legislature. On November 2nd, cast your vote for good government. Vote Armantrout.

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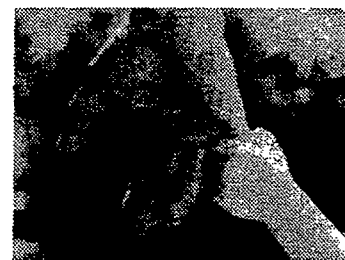
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