



WINTER 2010

SOAR! NEWS

Your gift helps to meet the needs of aging religious...

The generosity of our donors answered the recent needs of two congregations with projects that enable their elderly sisters to remain active members of their communities as they age. The Benedictine Sisters of Virginia needed to renovate their bathrooms and the Sisters of St. John the Baptist in New York wanted to install a ventilation system.

The Benedictine Sisters of Virginia have a history of 141 years of providing education and helping people in need help themselves. There are 17 retired or infirmed sisters at their monastery in Bristow, Virginia. A key component of the Benedictine charism is stability – attachment for life to one monastery. SOAR!'s grant of \$15,000 to help with renovations of bathrooms to

make them more accessible for the elderly allows the sisters in Bristow to age in place. Small but expensive changes in the bathroom facilities help elderly sisters to stay with their congregations and remain active in the ministries to which God has called them.



Since 1906 the Sisters of St. John the Baptist in Staten Island, New York have selflessly

devoted their lives working on behalf of those who are God's "little ones". Many of their retired sisters live in the 100 year old Convent Building. A large rotunda at the top offers natural light but lack of ventilation causes heat to build up in the hallways outside of the elderly sisters' rooms. SOAR!'s gift of \$18,000 allowed them to install ventilation system providing the sisters with a more safe, efficient and comfortable environment.

SOAR! has just received more than 50 requests totaling over \$1 million from aging religious congregations all over the country. Your generosity will help to meet those needs and allow the sisters and brothers who have given so faithfully throughout their lives to age with stability, dignity and comfort.



The retired Sisters of St. John the Baptist and the Sister Staff at Mt. St. John Retirement Convent pause for a 'family photo'.



Sr. Joanne Marruso and Sr. Matilde Parisi pose at Sr. Matilde's 100th birthday party. This January she will be 102.

The Staff of SOAR! and the Board of Directors wish you a blessed holiday season. Merry Christmas from SOAR!

DEAR FRIENDS OF SOAR!

Christmas Blessings!



Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM
President

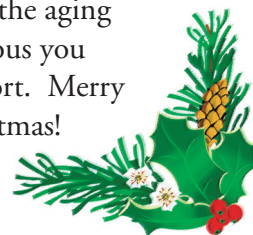
Sounds of Christmas fill the air as I write to you today while listening to the radio station already playing carols. It seems Christmas comes earlier with each passing year. My heart is still in the season of Thanksgiving because I have so many reasons for which to be grateful. Among the special blessings for which I thank God this year are the lives of religious men and women and the generosity of the SOAR! donors who help them in their aging years. So, I say a special THANK YOU not only to you, our dear friends and benefactors, but also to the many retired religious who

served others selflessly and wholeheartedly.

Nothing brings me greater peace and joy than to be able to respond favorable to a religious congregation asking SOAR! for help for their aging members. When a Sister writes and asks SOAR! to help fund renovations needed in their motherhouse to help aging sisters, my heart is moved with compassion and I desperately want to help. Unfortunately, I cannot say "Yes" to every congregation that appeals to SOAR! for assistance. However, with your generous support,

SOAR! can help more and more congregations each year. Your faithful and continued support means that more religious can live their remaining years with the dignity they deserve.

May you know the peace in your heart this Christmas. May the coming of the Child Jesus bring joy and hope to you and your loved ones. Know that you are in my prayers and in the prayers of all the aging religious you support. Merry Christmas!



S. Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

SOAR! WANTS DONORS TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2011 TAX LAW CHANGES



The new year will bring new changes to federal taxes—estate taxes, that is. On January 1, 2011, federal estate tax laws are expected to undergo major adjustments. If your estate is worth more than \$1 million when you die—called the exemption level—it may be subject to estate taxes in 2011, unless Congress steps in before then to increase that amount.

What Does This Mean for You? It has been several years since the threshold level has been as low as \$1 million. Even with some economic downturns, chances are you own more assets than you did a few years ago, and the ones you owned back then are likely worth more now than they were before. So, it's possible your estate will now be subject to federal estate taxes. This means it may be necessary to revise your estate plan.

Suggestion: Review your plans with your estate planning attorney as soon as possible to determine if any part of your plan needs updated. Please consider remembering SOAR! in your will. Our legal title is: Support Our Aging Religious, Inc. (SOAR!) 900 Varnum Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017.

Make your year-end gift online at www.soar-usa.org

Online giving is simple, efficient and safe.

Do you have room on your Christmas list for one more gift? Please send a donation to SOAR! to help aging religious this Christmas.



THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!



*God has been generous with
blessings; therefore let us share
our bounty with others.*

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Let us remember in prayer our dear friends and benefactors who died this year. These generous donors included SOAR! in their estate plans enabling SOAR! to continue to support aging religious. We are grateful for the generosity and selfless giving of the following:

Maree Brennan

William O. Brown

Julie M. Deserrano

Gertrude H. Goetz

Anna Clarke Johnson

George Tierney

Anne Wunsche

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon them.*

*May their souls and the souls of the
faithful departed rest in peace.*

Amen.

*Please remember SOAR!
in your will. Thank you.*

