



SOAR! NOTES

Support Our Aging Religious

A NEWSLETTER OF SUPPORT OUR AGING RELIGIOUS, INC.

SUMMER 2013

SOAR! Awards Over \$1 Million in Grants

At the May meeting of the SOAR! board of directors, members approved grants of more than \$1 million to 64 religious congregations of women and men in 20 states. These grants will provide fundamental assistance allowing thousands of women and men religious to live out the last years of their lives in dignity, safety, and with modest care.

Sisters worked without retirement benefits, nor a just wage, for most of their lives. It is only within the last 20 years that Sisters have been paid wages based on experience and education. SOAR! supports congregations who struggle financially to meet the basic needs of aging Sisters. SOAR! grants will help religious congregations to meet the needs of their elderly members by providing very basic help—the purchase of therapeutic and medical equipment, the renovation of space for handicapped accessibility and structural safety, and the installation of fire alarm and wander guard systems. Your generosity allows SOAR! to provide very needed funding. The next 8 to 10 years are critical as this is when the number of elderly Sisters will reach a peak.

More than 65% of all religious women and men are over the age of 70 and 33% are older than 80. According to recent studies, the total under-funded retirement liability for religious congregations is almost \$13 billion. Many religious congregations have limited capacity to build up resources to care for their elderly and infirm members. The current average annual Social Security Benefit for religious is \$4,779 compared to more than \$14,000 for lay recipients.

Your generosity is what makes these grants possible and the men and women religious are deeply grateful to all SOAR! contributors and pray daily for your intentions.

Members of SOAR!'s board of directors delivered grant checks to many congregations around the country.

See Page 3 for a full listing of congregations that received grants in 2013.



SOAR! Board Members present grant checks to congregations. Top Photo: Sister Norma Bourdon, Daughters of the Holy Spirit in Putnam, CT and Mary Beth Carrozza. Second Photo: William Lyons and Sister Gloria Marie Jones, Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, Fremont, CA. Third Photo: Mary Etta Mills and Sister Charmaine Krohe and Sister Grace Sciamanna, School Sisters of Notre Dame in Baltimore, MD. Bottom Left: Genevieve Murphy and Mother Marie Edward, Little Sisters of the Poor in Philadelphia, PA. Above Photo: Michael Castellano with Sister Carolyn M. Dimick, Sister Joan Rychalsky, Sister Bernadette Rodemer (seated), Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Immaculata, PA.

Dear Friends of SOAR!,

What’s your favorite time of the year? For the board at SOAR!, the answer is easy. Our favorite time of the year is the season of spring, for this is when we award grants to the congregations of men and women religious who have asked for our help. This year SOAR! was able to fund 86% of the applications we received – a new record! And, it is only through the generosity of friends like you that SOAR! can help care for retired religious.

Board members of SOAR! are eager to visit the Priests, Brothers and Sisters to deliver a grant check in person. When they visit, they bring with them not only the grant that your donation has made possible, but they also carry your special intentions, entrusting them to the prayers of the Sisters and Brothers. The retired religious who receive grants from SOAR! are privileged to pray for you and your needs, and they pray in gratitude for your generosity, care and concern for them.

Thank you for making it possible for SOAR! to help so many elderly and aging religious. I promise you that SOAR! is helping those congregations most in need of assistance with projects that will bring dignity and respect to aging religious. I offer you my continued prayers of gratitude and blessing.

In gratitude,

S. Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

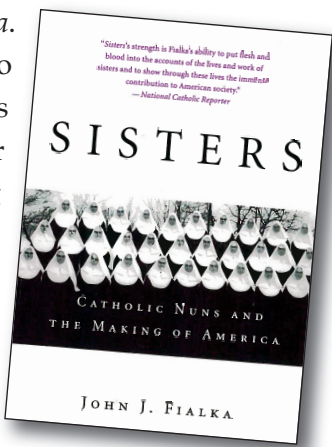


SOAR! proudly announces its “Catholic Nuns and the Making of America” series!

We have posted on our website www.soar-usa.org excerpts from the many inspirational stories in co-founder John Fialka's book- *Sisters: Catholic Nuns and the Making of America*. The stories are about the religious Sisters who lives have influenced multiple generations of Americans in every walk of life. Their dedication played a significant role in shaping the fabric of our nation’s history.

Those who wish to read about these incredible women and their gift of service to the church and the world can do so in John’s book, which you can order from Amazon.com or receive directly from SOAR! for a donation of \$50.

This donation will support retired religious Sisters and Brothers through the work of SOAR!. To receive the book for your donation, please contact Danielle Bell directly by email dbell@soar-usa.org or by phone at 202.529.7627



SOAR!

ANNUAL AWARD DINNER

BENEFITING THE AGED AND INFIRM RELIGIOUS

New York

Wednesday, October 2, 2013
New York Athletic Club
180 Central Park South
New York, New York 10017

DC

Friday, November 1, 2013
Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium
1301 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, District of Columbia

For further information, please contact
Sr. Kate Clancy at 202.529.7627 or email kclancy@soar-usa.org



2013 Grants

ARKANSAS

Subiaco Abbey, Subiaco
Video equipment to include infirm monks in daily monastic prayer

CALIFORNIA

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, California Province, Belmont
Hearing Aids
Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, Fremont

Remodel bathrooms to ADA standards
Carmelite Monastery of San Diego, San Diego

Installation of a chair lift

CONNECTICUT

Daughters of the Holy Spirit, Putnam
Lift chairs
Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mother of the Church, Baltic

Handicapped accessible chapel doors

FLORIDA

Benedictine Sisters of Florida, St. Leo
Kitchen equipment for new monastery

ILLINOIS

Sisters of the Living Word, Arlington Heights
Three chair lift replacements
Benedictine Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Lisle
Upgrade to the audio and visual system
The Cenacle Sisters, Chicago
Purchase handicapped accessible toilets
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Chicago
Equipment for physical and mental exercise for elderly Sisters

INDIANA

Brothers of Holy Cross, Midwest, Province
Install automatic doors
Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, Oldenburg
Fire Alarm System
Sisters of St. Benedict, Ferdinand
Acute Care Bed System and Lift Slings

KANSAS

Sisters of St. Joseph, Concordia
Replace water heater and softener unit

LOUISIANA

Sisters of the Holy Family, New Orleans
Purchase heavy duty lift chair and mattress sets

MASSACHUSETTS

Glastonbury Abbey, Hingham
New roof for the monastery
Sisters of St. Anne, Marlborough
Electric beds and mattresses
Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, Brighton
"Med Mizer" Retractablebeds

MARYLAND

Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity, Silver Spring
Replace refrigerator and freezer in the retirement residence
Atl Midwest Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Baltimore
Handicap accessible medicine cabinets and toilets

MINNESOTA

Franciscan Sisters, Little Falls
Upgrade and remodel bathroom in convent care facility

MISSOURI

Adorers of the Blood of Christ, St. Louis
Upgrade Wander Guard System
School Sisters of Notre Dame, St. Louis
Elevator installation

NEW JERSEY

Sisters of Saint Dominic, Caldwell
Electronic charting/ medical record system

NEW YORK

Capuchin Franciscan Friars, Beacon
Install door alarm on infirmary
Daughters of Divine Charity, Staten Island
Stairchair replacement
Medical Missionaries of Mary City Island, Bronx

New carpeting for residence

Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement, Garrison

Safety upgrades: flooring and handrails
Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Maryknoll
Remodel 4 bathrooms for handicap compliance

Congregation of the Passion, Rye Brook
Renovation of bedrooms with handicapped accessible bathrooms

Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk, Blue Point
Three automatic door openers

Sisters of Saint Joseph, Brentwood
Updating and enlargement of the kitchen facilities

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Latham
Medical equipment

Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, New Windsor
Flooring/ refrigerator

Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, Buffalo
Replacement of various equipment needed for care of elderly

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Buffalo
Replacement floor in serving/ dinning area of convent

Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities, Williamson

7 automatic doors and zoomtext software
Sisters of The Divine Compassion, White Plains

Long term care equipment for assisted living facility

OHIO

Dominican Sisters of Peace, Columbus
Replace 14 hospital beds, over-bed tables, lift recliners
Sisters of St. Francis of the Cong of Our Lady of Lourdes, Sylvania
Hi-Low electric beds, alternating pressure mattress, and mechanical patient lifts
Ursuline Convent of the Sacred Heart, Toledo
Central bathtub replacement, installation and warranty
Monastery of the Visitation, Toledo
Replace windows on Providence Cloister

Sisters of Notre Dame, Toledo
Upgrade of healthcare center
Sisters of Notre Dame, Christ the King Province, Chardon

Secured wander management system for dementia

Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, Pepper Pike

Accessibility Upgrades

Sisters of St. Francis, Tiffin

Mandated elevator replacement

PENNSYLVANIA

Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Danville

Wireless access to facilitate memory programs

Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Immaculata

Century tubs and lifts

Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scranton

Chapel air temperature control upgrade

Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, Bensalem

Update infirmary nurse call system

Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great, Fox Chase Manor

Install doors and tranmission system to make chapel handicap accessible

Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Haverford

Replacement of handicapped lift

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Merion Station

Renovation of nursing station

Little Sisters of the Poor, Philadelphia

Whirlpool and lift hygyne chair replacement

Bernardine Franciscan Sisters, Reading

Purchase of three walk-in bathtubs

Sisters of St. Joseph, Erie

Sling mechanical floor lift, sit-to-stand mechanical lift and lift chairs

TEXAS

Dominican Sisters, Houston

Purchase of two oxygen concentrators for retired sisters

Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, Prayer Town

Hospital beds and accessories for infirmary

VERMONT

Benedictine Nuns of the Congregation of Solesmes, Westfield

Infirmary renovation

WASHINGTON

Our Lady of the Rock, Shaw Island

Upgrade two bathrooms in monastery.

Sisters of St. Dominic, Tacoma

Car to transport disabled sisters with wheelchairs

WISCONSIN

School Sisters of St. Francis, Milwaukee

Convent dining room floor and cabinet Replacement

Sinsinawa Dominicans, Sinsinawa

Lift chairs and medical supplies



PEWS AND PUBS IN IRELAND

JUNE 12-21, 2014

SOAR! invites you on a spiritual and cultural journey to the Emerald Isle.

For full brochure, please contact:
Sr. Kate Clancy at 202.529.7627
or email kclancy@soar-usa.org

Your tour includes:

Galway – 2 nights
Killarney – 2 nights

Blarney – 1 night
Dublin – 3 nights

\$3,600 - Two in a room

\$4,400 - Single Room

RESERVATIONS ARE LIMITED TO 45 PERSONS

“Don’t you read your mail?”



Those words caught my attention. They were written in large letters with a black marker. Of course I read my mail. I read all the letters that SOAR! benefactors send to me. A few days later another letter arrived with a similar theme. “I’ve written to you three times, please stop mailing to my old address.” It wasn’t until the third letter arrived that week that I realized something was very wrong.

Some of your notes (though not all) were accidentally sent to storage instead of being sent to me. It was a simple mistake, but a costly one for our donors. When I realized what happened, I asked for all of the boxes in storage to be immediately sent to our office so the SOAR! staff could read your requests and attend to them. And for the last month, we have been going through the notes one by one and answering your requests.

Please accept my sincere apology for the delay of several months in updating your information, sending prayer cards and your other requests. I want you to have full confidence in me and in this organization you choose to support for the good of all elderly religious.

S. Kathleen Lunsman, IHM

Ways You Can Help

To donate now, please visit our website:

www.soar-usa.org and click on the **Donate Today** or send your donation in the enclosed envelope.

If you are considering including SOAR! in your will, our legal title is Support Our Aging Religious, Inc. (SOAR!) and our federal tax ID number is 52-1485481.

To make a gift of stock/securities please call our office at 202.529.7627 for specific instructions.

For additional ways to help please visit us at www.soar-usa.org and click on **Give** or call us at 202.529.7627.



SOAR! Notes is published by Support Our Aging Religious, Inc. The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate the mission and needs of SOAR! and to express our gratitude to our donors.

President: Sister Kathleen Lunsman, IHM
Editor: Deborah Hudson Vornbrock

**A CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION SERVING
ELDERLY SISTERS, BROTHERS AND PRIESTS SINCE 1986.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

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| SEPT. 11-14, 2013 | SOAR! attends the National Catholic Development Conference - Grapevine Texas |
| OCT. 2, 2013 | SOAR! Board Meeting
New York, NY |
| OCT. 2, 2013 | SOAR! Annual Gala Dinner
New York, NY |
| NOV. 1, 2013 | SOAR! Annual Gala Dinner
Washington, DC |
| APRIL 23, 2014 | SOAR! Annual Gala Dinner
Los Angeles, CA |
| JUNE 12-21, 2014 | SOAR! Pews and Pubs in Ireland |

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Visit SOAR! online at www.soar-usa.org • Reach us at 202.529.7627 or via email at info@soar-usa.org
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