

SOAR! NOTES

Newsletter of Support Our Aging Religious, Inc.

SOAR! CELEBRATES 25th ANNIVERSARY

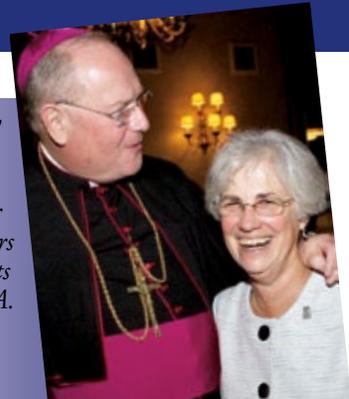
SOAR! held anniversary gala dinners in New York City and Washington, DC, in celebration of the 25th Anniversary. It was in 1986 that the financial situation of aging religious was first uncovered. Support Our Aging Religious was incorporated that year to help respond to needs of retired and aging religious men and women.



SOAR! bestowed the prestigious St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award on two individuals this year. Archbishop Timothy Dolon received the honor at a fundraising gala at the New York Athletic Club on October 5, 2011. Archbishop Dolan was recognized for his leadership in the Church and his support of women and men religious. Mrs. Mary Jane Cullen, a resident of Chevy Chase, MD, received the honor at the fundraising gala held on November 4, 2011 at the Andrew Mellon Auditorium in Washington, DC. Mrs. Cullen's life-long support of Catholic education, her volunteerism and her assistance to many Catholic organizations earned her this honor.

Sister Rose Bernadette Gallagher, MM, received the Father Victor Yanitelli Award in recognition of her ministry among those in need. Throughout her years in ministry, Sister Rose Bernadette has been a voice for those whose voice cannot be heard. Today she is an advocate for women involved in human trafficking.

SOAR! appreciates the support of the many people who attended the fundraising galas during this 25th anniversary year. The generosity of the SOAR! donors enables SOAR! to provide assistance to congregations most in need of help in caring for their aging members. 🍷



Archbishop Timothy Dolan greets Sister Catherine Talia, Provincial Superior of the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk recipients of the SOAR! Rita A. Hofbauer Grant



SOAR! Board of Directors Chairperson John T. O'Rourke with Sister Rose Bernadette Gallagher, MM, recipient of the Father Victor Yanitelli, SJ. Award and SOAR! President Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM



Recipient of the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award, Archbishop Dolan displays award as SOAR! President Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM looks on



Sister Peg Geary, SNDdN accepts a check on behalf of her congregation from SOAR! Board Member Fr. Fred Tillotson, O.Carm



Mrs. Mary Jane Cullen, the Washington, DC St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award Recipient with her son, Tim Cullen (left) and the emcee for the evening, Mark Russell (right)



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



*SOAR! President
Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM*

Dear Friends of SOAR!,

One of my favorite Christmas carols is “The Little Drummer Boy.” It is a song we can all sing, even if we only know the “pa rum pa pum pum” part. I think what I love best about that song is the message – the little drummer boy did not think that playing the drum was worthy of the King, and yet it was the perfect gift. Sometimes we do not realize the impact that we have on other people. Giving of ourselves, our time and talent, is more valuable than anything. The act of caring for someone else is truly a gift.

A few months ago, I toured residences of aging Sisters and Brothers on behalf of SOAR! to see how SOAR! funds were used by elderly religious. I expected to be shown completed renovation projects. I was prepared to look at mattresses, hospital beds and elevators. I was ready to look at “before and after” photos of renovations made to kitchens and bathrooms. Instead I was introduced to Sisters and Brothers and Monks and Priests – the elderly religious whom YOU help with your contributions to SOAR!

I was delighted to meet Sister Cecilia who is nearly 90 yet has the energy of someone much younger. Sister told me that she prays for SOAR! every day. The smile and laughter of Father Gerald warmed my heart over a lunch of soup we shared in the abbey. He walks with a cane now, but that doesn't hinder him from presiding at daily mass.

The three day visit to convents and monasteries in Massachusetts was an experience I wanted to share with you. I want you to know that the donations you send to SOAR! are being used to help elderly religious.

Thank you for helping to care for our elderly religious. You show how much you care every time you make a donation to SOAR! If you ever think “I have no gift to bring . . .that's fit to give a King” remember that your prayers, your concern, your generosity to SOAR! are the perfect gift! Merry Christmas! ❣

S. Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

FAITHFUL FRIENDS - A SIMPLE WAY TO GIVE

Faithful Friends is a new giving program for friends and benefactors wishing to support SOAR! on a monthly basis. Consistent monthly donations help SOAR! budget resources more effectively. Regular automatic contributions help reduce administrative, paper and postage costs, allowing your donation to go further in helping elderly religious. Becoming a member of Faithful Friends is cost-effective for you, too -- no stamps, no envelopes and no checks to write and mail.

Please consider becoming a monthly donor through automatic deductions from your checking account or credit card. Sign up today on our website:

www.soar-usa.org and click on Donate Now. Choose “monthly” in the box for frequency. Or call the SOAR! office at 202.529.7627 and request a *Faithful Friends* brochure. ❣



SOAR! VISITS MASSACHUSETTS CONGREGATION



Autumn is a perfect time to visit New England. In late September, Sister Kathleen and Deborah Hudson Vornbrock, grant administrator, spent a few days on the road driving through the state of Massachusetts. The SOAR! staff visited four congregations in Massachusetts that have been recipients of SOAR! grants. The purpose of the visits was to assess progress of the project for which the grant was awarded and to learn more about the Sisters in need and how their need was met by



*Sister Cecile at
Mt. St. Mary's Abbey*

the generosity of the SOAR! donors.

The impact of SOAR! grants was evident in every visit. The Medical Missionaries of Mary in Somerville have a home where Sisters live once they retire from their active ministry of providing medical care to those in need around the world. A new boiler, handicapped accessible bathrooms and a chair lift that runs from the basement to the 2nd floor, were all made possible by the generosity of SOAR! donors.



New boiler keeps the Sisters warm at the Medical Missionaries of Mary's home in Somerville

The Cistercians of the Strict Observance at Mt. St. Mary's Abbey in Wrentham received SOAR! grants that allowed them to install a security system to protect their Sisters struggling with Alzheimer's and a therapeutic tub. The infirmary is now safe and better equipped for elderly residents, like Sister Cecile.

In Hingham, the monks at Glastonbury Abbey, prepared lunch in their kitchen that is now free from asbestos thanks to a funding from SOAR! which replaced a badly cracked asbestos floor. Previously SOAR! had helped the abbey replace a boiler.



Father Gerald preparing dinner at Glastonbury Abbey

Bethany Health Care Center, in Framingham, MA which is run by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, is home to 110 elderly Sisters whose median age is 87. The Sisters of St. Joseph have received grants from SOAR! for therapeutic bathing tubs, mattresses and hospital beds.

At each visit, it was evident that the benefits of SOAR! grants last for years. Each donation that SOAR! receives from faithful donors makes a difference in the life of elderly sisters, brothers and priests. Over and over, the elderly religious and staff at the sites who have benefited from SOAR! grants, want to make sure that SOAR! donors know they are remembered daily in their prayers. ☺



SOAR! President, Sister Kathleen Lunsmann and Sister Jacquelyn McCarthy, R.N., CSJ, CEO/Administrator of Bethany Health Care



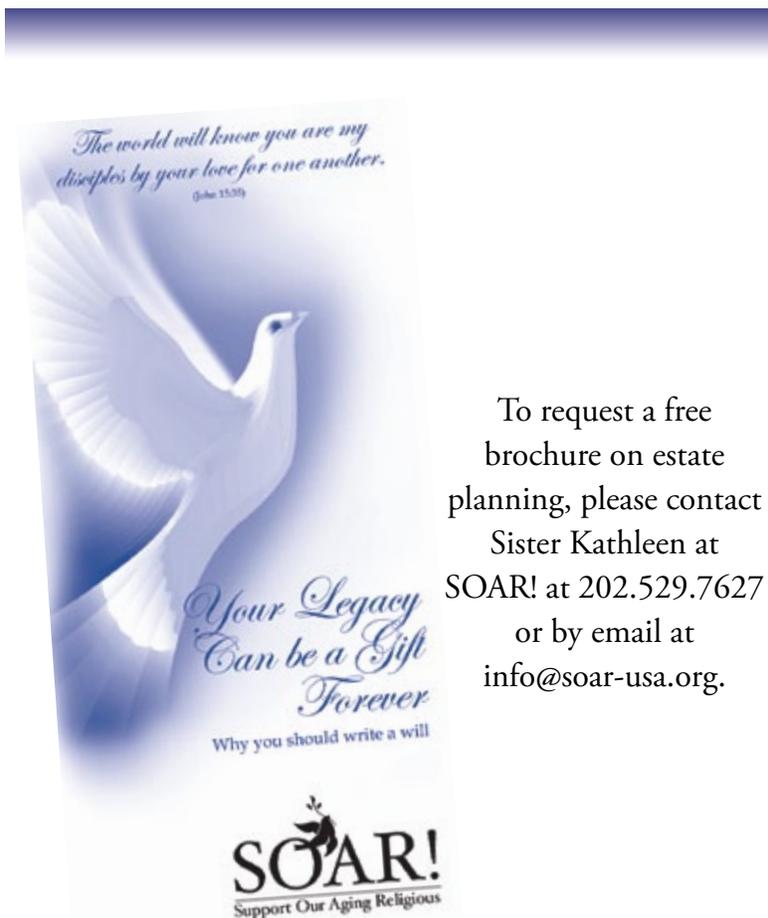
Let us remember in prayer our dear friends and benefactors who died this year.

These generous donors included SOAR! in their estate plans enabling SOAR! to continue to support aging religious. We are grateful for their generosity.

Mary P. Burke
Margaret M. Conner
Mary R. Dana
Joseph A. DeLorenzo
Wanda Grzymala
Madelon L. Hyman
Evelyn Nabholtz
William S. Perper

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.



To request a free brochure on estate planning, please contact Sister Kathleen at SOAR! at 202.529.7627 or by email at info@soar-usa.org.

TAX LAW CHANGES AND CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

How new laws can help aging religious and benefit you....

In 2010 Congress passed the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act. This law allows individuals to make charitable contributions to qualified charities, like SOAR!, directly from an Individual Retirement Account during 2011. Your tax or financial advisor can help you decide if this law can benefit you. This offer is only good in 2011.

- Donor must be 70 ½
- Gift can be up to \$100,000 per taxpayer per year
- Gift may be counted toward the mandatory withdrawal amount
- Traditional or Roth IRAs qualify

If you decide to make a gift to SOAR!, our legal title is: Support Our Aging Religious, Inc. To notify us of a gift please contact:

Support Our Aging Religious, Inc. (SOAR!)
3025 4th Street, NE
Suite 14
Washington, DC 20017
202.529.7627
info@soar-usa.org

Neither SOAR! nor the author is providing legal or tax advice. Please contact your tax advisors or attorney about the applicability of this law for your specific situation.

YEAR END GIVING

Many people consider Christmas and year's end as a special time to give to their favorite charity or non-profit organization. Year-end gifts can provide many advantages to you, the donor, and to the receiving organization. We invite you to remember SOAR! for your gift giving this time of year. 🍷

SOAR! Notes is published by Support Our Aging Religious, Inc. (SOAR!), 3025 4th Steet NE, Washington, DC 20017. The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate the mission and needs of SOAR! and to express our gratitude to our donors.

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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