

SOAR! NOTES

Newsletter of Support Our Aging Religious, Inc.

You make a difference...

Last month, Sister Kate Clancy, IHM of SOAR! visited the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk in Blue Point, NY to deliver a grant check for the Sister's most recent request for two stair lifts. The elderly sisters, whose median age is 82, have difficulty navigating the steep narrow stairs of the convent. Having the lifts will give the sisters a safe way to stay mobile and active in their congregation and ministry.

During the visit, the Ursuline Sisters and staff expressed their gratitude, not only for this current grant, but also for the many other projects that SOAR! has helped to make possible over the years... a handicapped accessible van, a food warming table, a stove and a dishwasher. Through the generosity of our donors SOAR! was able to fulfill these requests as well as many others from congregations across the country who are caring for their elderly members. 🍀



Sister Kate Clancy of SOAR! presents the grant check to Sister Edith and Sister Barbara at the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk Convent in Blue Point, NY



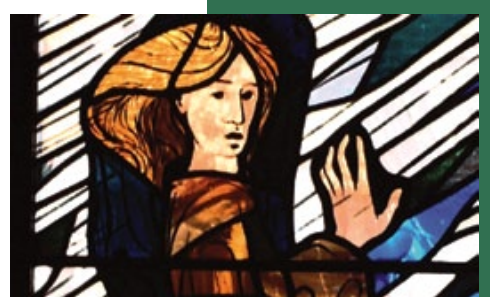
St. Ursula Center in Blue Point, NY is the retirement home for the aging Ursuline Sisters



Sister Ursula celebrates St. Patrick's Day



St. Angela de Merici - foundress of the Company of St. Ursula



In 1535, Saint Angela Merici, a spiritual leader in Brescia, Italy founded the Company of Saint Ursula. Under the guidance of Saint Angela, a group of twelve women worked to raise the standards of society by the example of their lives and the practice of spiritual values. They dedicated themselves to helping the poor, visiting the sick and instructing young women in family values. Today, the Ursuline Sisters are still committed to effecting change by standing with the oppressed and economically poor, especially women and children.

from the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk website

DEAR FRIENDS
OF SOAR!

Easter Blessings!



Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM
President

The cards are piled high in stacks on my desk . . . and I'm reading them one by one. The handwriting on some is beautiful – perfect Palmer method; while the writing on other cards is shaky, perhaps signs of arthritic hands. The messages you write to me are filled with gratitude and concern:

God bless you, Sisters. You taught all 11 of my children from 1st through 12th grades – bless your hearts! You helped my family for years, and now I feel good about helping you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

I'm so grateful for the donations you send so SOAR! can help congregations of men and women religious care

for their elderly members. We count on your financial support, and we also count on your prayers.

I do appreciate all the kind notes that you write which I share with the Sisters and Brothers who benefit from your donations to SOAR!

The heartfelt messages you send show me that you really care. You care that some elderly Sisters reside in convents in need of repairs. You care that some congregations need help to install an emergency generator. You care that a four story convent infirmary needs a new motor for their only elevator. I cannot thank you enough for caring.

In this season of Easter and springtime, may the glory of Christ's Resurrection bring you new life and hope. As the daffodils bloom and trees begin to bud forth, may your heart blossom with gratitude for all your blessings.

Happy Easter! Happy Spring!

S. Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

O Jesus, my Love, my vocation, at last I have found it. My vocation is Love!" ~ Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

Notes of gratitude to
Sisters from our donors

*Thanks – a grateful student
I cannot thank you enough.
Praying for you Sister.*

God Bless You for your service!

You are remembered dear Sisters...

The dear Sisters do so much for us.

Thank you for choosing LOVE as your vocation.

God bless you all for your wonderful sacrifice.

Thanks for sharing your LOVE to others.

Raised by Sisters in Pittsburgh, PA. Thank you.

Thank you all for praying for me...

Thank you for your wonderful guidance & teaching.

I will never forget what you all have done when I was growing up.

Thank you for being a great worker for our Lord Jesus Christ

Thank you for helping to shape my future.

Your vocation has helped form our 7 beautiful grandchildren.

HUGS!

For 12 years I was taught by the Sisters and I loved them very much. I am now 92 years old so it was a long time ago. I loved them all.

I want to thank you personally because Sisters like you are the reason for my strong faith. God bless you and keep you. You are all wonderful.

You would be amazed to know how often your former students think of you and pray for you! They realize what a blessing you have been in their lives. May God bless you always and eternally.

I am so grateful for the Sisters who taught me (over 60 years ago!). I'm not Roman Catholic but the Sisters loved and prayed for me. Thank you for your Ministry and your love.



Arkansas

Subiaco Abbey, Subiaco
Nurse call and exterior door locks
for infirmary

California

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Belmont
Hearing aids
Sisters of Notre Dame of Los Angeles,
Thousand Oaks
Automated push-button activated
doors

Connecticut

Sisters of Charity of Our Lady Mother
of the Church, Baltic
Boiler replacement
Daughters of the Holy Spirit, US Province,
Putnam
Addressable smoke detector

School Sisters of Notre Dame, Wilton
Electric Lift Chairs, Mattresses, Vital
Signs Monitors, Oxygen Concentrator

Illinois

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Chicago
Infirmary mattresses, recliner lift
chairs, and digital handrail scale

Indiana

Our Lady of Grace Monastery, Beech
Grove
Automatic door openers
Sisters of the 3rd Order of St. Francis of
Oldenburg, Oldenburg
Replacement windows
Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-
Woods
Lift for wheelchairs

Massachusetts

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of
Boston, Framingham
Mattress and adjustable-height
electric beds
Glastonbury Abbey, Hingham
Asbestos removal and new floor
Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of
Springfield, Holyoke
New mattresses for retirement center
Daughters of St. Paul, Jamaica Plain
Call system
Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed
Virgin, Petersham
Medical equipment
Cistercians of the Strict Observance,
Wrentham
Security system for Alzheimer patients

Minnesota

Order of St. Benedict, Colleeville
Mechanical patient lifts
Franciscan Sisters, Little Falls
Patient lifts and security system for
Memory Care Center

North Dakota

Benedictine Sisters of Richardton,
Richardton
Senior friendly exercise equipment

Nevada

Sisters of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Reno
Roof replacement

New York

Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk, Blue Point
Residential Stairway Lift
Sisters of St. Joseph, Brentwood
HC accessible bathroom renovations
Medical Missionaries of Mary, City Island
Boiler replacement
Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic,
Maryknoll
Elevator upgrade and ADA security
phones
Sisters of Charity of Halifax, Rego Park
Modernization of passenger elevator
Dominican Convent of Our Lady of the
Rosary, Sparkill
Backup generator
Sisters of St. John the Baptist, Staten
Island
Roof venting system

Ohio

Sisters of Notre Dame, Christ the King
Province, Chardon
Mattresses for nursing center and
medical equipment
Dominican Sisters of Peace, Columbus
Install phase II of wander management
system
Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, Pepper Pike
Fire alarm system
Sisters of St. Francis of the Congregation of
Our Lady of Lourdes, Sylvania
Lift chairs
Sisters of St. Francis, Tiffin
HC accessible automatic doors

Oregon

Benedictine Sisters, Mt. Angel
Walk-in bath tub

Pennsylvania

Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, Aston
Replacement windows
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Erie
Hearing aids
Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern PA,
Erie
Hospital beds
Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill,
Flourtown
Removal and replacement of
underground oil tanks
Sisters of Saint Francis of the Neumann
Communities, Pittsburgh
Hydrotherapy tub and mechanical

ceiling lift

School Sisters of St. Francis, Pittsburgh
Climate control for chapel and emer-
gency lighting
Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scranton
Boiler replacement

Texas

Dominican Sisters of Houston, Houston
Sewer pipe replacement
Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, Prayer-
town
Elder friendly exercise equipment
Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help
of Christians, San Antonio
Inclined platform lift for wheelchairs

Virginia

Benedictine Sisters, Bristow
HC accessible renovations

Wisconsin

School Sisters of St. Francis, Milwaukee
HC accessible renovations

*“We are truly blessed to
have SOAR! and its
generous benefactors
assisting religious
communities
throughout the country.
Your efforts and
support for the needs of
aging religious truly
make a significant
difference for so many.”*



SOAR! Board member, Jim Lynch, presents the grant award to Sister Peggy Scarano, OP and Sr. Joanne Deas, OP

DONALD H. WILLIAMS

Founding board member's legacy lives on

SOAR! extends our sympathy to the Williams family on the death of Donald H. Williams. Don was among the group of Catholics who convened a working session to respond to the recent news report of the financial crisis facing retired



men and women religious. The result of their brainstorming that day in 1986 was the birth of the non-profit organization, Support Our Aging Religious, known as SOAR!. In a letter to the board of directors in 1988, Don said, "The growth and success of SOAR! will always be one of the my highest personal priorities." Don's family told of his commitment to helping retired religious, "He said he found out that the Sisters were silently suffering and he knew he had to help." Twenty-five years later, SOAR! is still responding to the need for which it was founded - to help congregations care for their aging members. So, thank you, Don, and all the other Catholic men and women who were pioneers in responding to a crisis.

Knowing of his support of SOAR!, many of Don Williams' colleagues and friends made gifts to SOAR! in his name. May his soul rest in peace. 🌿

REASONS TO UPDATE YOUR WILL

When was the last time you thought about having a will that reflects your current situation? *Have any of these experiences happened to you?*

- Changes in your marital status
- Birth of a child or grandchild
- You purchased or sold a home
- You moved to a different state
- You recently inherited assets
- A beneficiary named in your will has died
- Your executor or trustee died, moved or became disabled
- You decide to make a new or additional bequest to a charity such as SOAR!

If you have experienced any of the life changes listed here, then it is time to update your will. To leave a bequest to help aging religious, please remember SOAR! in your estate plans. Our legal title is Support Our Aging Religious, Inc. (SOAR!) Contact your financial advisor for information regarding your specific situation. 🌿



"Again, thank you for your loving support of our retired Sisters. Your partnership has made possible so many wonderful updates that ensure their safety and comfort. Please know that you and everyone at SOAR! are remembered daily in the prayers of our Sisters around the world."

SOAR! Notes is published by Support Our Aging Religious, Inc. (SOAR!), 900 Varnum Street, 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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