



SOAR! NOTES

Support Our Aging Religious

A NEWSLETTER OF SUPPORT OUR AGING RELIGIOUS, INC.

WINTER 2012



Donors and Members Inspire SOAR!

A year following SOAR!'s 25th anniversary celebration, benefactors came together to honor the mission of SOAR! at gala dinners in New York City and Washington DC, reflecting on another year of service to aging men and women religious.

On October 3, 2012, at the New York Athletic Club, SOAR! presented the prestigious St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award to **Mr. Michael Maron** president and chief executive officer of Holy Name Medical Center in Teaneck, New Jersey. Mr. Maron was honored for his numerous leadership roles in which he blends his health services administration and business experience with a spirit of compassion in the ministry of health care. The Father Victor Yanitelli Award was presented to **Sister Catherine O'Leary, SC**, executive director of Women Helping Women for her many years of outreach among women in need in Queens, New York. The dinner in New York was chaired by Wally Probst, a faithful volunteer leader for SOAR! in the greater New York region.

Biological siblings **Reverend William D. Byrne** and **Sister Deirdre Byrne, MD, POSC**, received the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award at the Washington, DC dinner held on November 2, 2012, at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium. Father Bill, pastor of St. Peter's Parish on Capitol Hill and secretary for Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns for the Archdiocese of Washington, was recognized for his charismatic leadership in the Church and community. Sister Deirdre who is a professed Sister and an Army medical surgeon, was honored for her courageous and continuous dedication to help and heal people. Having served in medical missions in Afghanistan, Haiti and various parts of the world, Sister Deirdre currently practices medicine at the Spanish Catholic Center in Washington, DC. Being referred to as "Sister-Soldier-Surgeon," Sister Deirdre serves both military personnel and civilians, focusing her efforts not only on global

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Top Photo: Attending the SOAR! New York Gala are, from left, Michael Rodgers (chair of the SOAR! Board of Directors), Michael Maron (receiving the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award), Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, and Dr. William Smith (SOAR! Board Member). Second Photo: from left, Fr. William Byrne and Sr. Deirdre Byrne (receiving the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award). Third Photo: Donald Cardinal Wuerl and Mrs. Mary Byrne. Fourth Photo: Kevin and Jane Belford, former St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award recipients and Jane is a past SOAR! board member. Bottom Photo: from left, Michael Fitzgerald, former Board Member; Genevieve Murphy, Board Member and Dinner Co-Chair, Paul McNamara; former St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award Recipient.

Dear Friends
of SOAR!,

This Christmas season gives us the opportunity to pause and reflect on the blessings in our lives. In addition to my family and my community of Sisters, I am grateful for the many ways you, our SOAR! benefactors, have been a blessing to me. You inspire me with your generosity. Your words touch me when I read your notes and prayer requests. I am often amazed at how much of your personal success is attributed to a special Sister in your past. Just recently I read a note that said, "Sister Magdalene made me the person I am today."

I hope you enjoy seeing the photos of our gala dinners. The proceeds raised at these events help SOAR! reach out to many congregations. Men and women religious who need the help of SOAR! can be assured that they will receive the care thanks to our SOAR! benefactors.

Thank you for your ongoing and faithful support of SOAR! and our ministry to aging religious. I know there are many worthy charities that need your financial support, too; and I am grateful that you continue to help SOAR!

May every blessing be yours now and in the days to come. Thank you again for your goodness to SOAR!

In gratitude,

S. Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM



Donors and Members Inspire SOAR! continued from cover...

medical concerns but also on what Sister calls "the humble hardworking people of this community".

Lead by capable and energetic co-chairs, Trish Cullen, Mary Donatelli and Genevieve Murphy, the SOAR! gala in Washington raised significant donations to help support aging religious.

SOAR! appreciates the kindness and support of everyone who was able to attend the galas this year and to all those who could not be there but were there in spirit. The generosity of the SOAR! donors inspires SOAR! to continue its mission, ensuring the safety and comfort of our aging religious and enabling all members of congregations to continue in their active ministries.

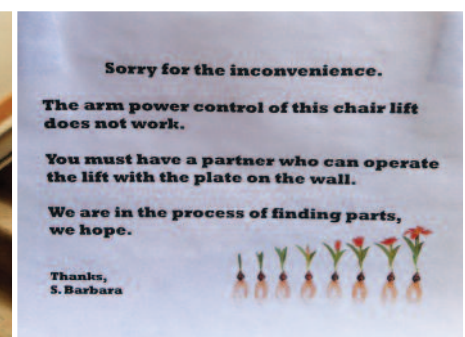


Chicago Visit Finds Congregations' Needs Met with SOAR! Donation

In July Sister Kathleen Lunsmann and Deborah Hudson Vornbrock visited several Chicago congregations that have been the recipients of SOAR! grants and had the opportunity to see firsthand how SOAR! donors help congregations care for their elderly.

Sister Kathleen and Deborah visited the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, The Cenacle Sisters, Sisters of the Resurrection at Resurrection Life Center, and the Sisters of the Living Word. The purpose of the visits was to assess the progress of the projects for which grants were awarded and to learn more about the needs of Sisters. It also provided an opportunity to see how their needs were being met by the generosity of SOAR! donors.

All of the congregations have received SOAR! funds for projects to help the elderly sisters. The Sisters of the Resurrection received money to assist them with buying specialty low rise mattresses, helping the





Far Left Photo: Attending the SOAR! DC Gala are, from left, Mary Donatelli, Genevieve Murphy, and Trish Cullen, 2012 DC Dinner Co-Chairs. Top Left Photo: Sister Catherine O'Leary, SC, Co-founder and Executive Director of Women Helping Women (receiving the 2012 Fr. Yanitelli Award) with Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM. Bottom Left Photo: Michael Coppotelli, SOAR! board member; Sister Kathleen Lunsmann; Wally Probst, NY Dinner Committee Chair; and Msgr. Jamie Gigantiello. Bottom Right Photo: Sister Jeanne Burns, OP, Fr. Victor Yanitelli Award Recipient 2008 and Kathy Murnion, NY Dinner Committee member.



Friends and Benefactors

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



Mary A. Bailey

Walter M. Murphy

Paul & Dorothy Buday

Frances Perea

Joseph Densberger

Helmut Sommer

Margaret M. McMahon

Melvin Wilczynski



These generous donors included SOAR! in their estate plans, enabling SOAR! to continue to support aging religious, inspiring us all to leave behind a gift of love and generosity.

For a gallery of photos from the New York and Washington events, go to www.soar-usa.org/events

elderly avoid falls and injuries while allowing them to have freedom and privacy. The Sisters of the Living Word needed to replace chair lifts for their stairs leading to the chapel. The current lifts required two users and, in some cases, were duct-taped together because parts were no longer available. The Cenacle Sisters were just beginning to work on a handicapped accessible ramp for their entrance, so the sisters with walkers and wheel chairs and emergency personnel would not have to use a dangerously steep service ramp. The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago had received a grant to install some railings in their chapel, enabling the elderly sisters to walk safely into the chapel to attend Mass with their community.

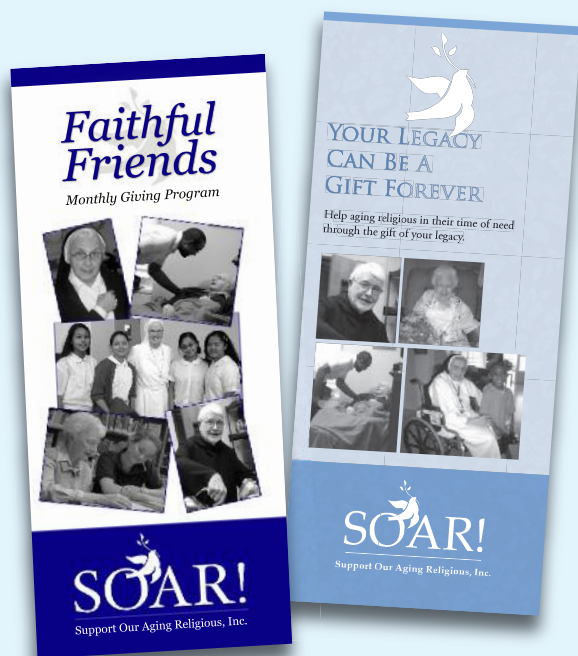
These visits were a reminder that each donation that SOAR! receives from our generous donors makes a real impact in the lives of the elderly religious in Chicago and throughout the US. The religious and staff at the sites who have benefitted from SOAR! grants always remember SOAR! donors in their prayers.



Far Left Photo: Chair ramp held together with duct tape. Second Photo from Left: Note with instructions not to operate chair ramp without assistance Third photo from left: Benedictine Chapel. Top Photo: Low-rise beds at Resurrection Life. All other Photos: Cenacle Ramp Construction to completion.

To request a brochure on remembering SOAR! in your will or becoming a Faithful Friend please fill out the form below and mail back to:

Support Our Aging Religious, Inc. (SOAR!)
3025 4th Street, NE
Suite 14
Washington, DC 20017



- ☐ Please send me a remembering SOAR! in your will brochure
- ☐ Please send me a becoming a Faithful Friend brochure

Name

Address

City

State ZIP

SOAR! Benefactor's Will is a Generous Surprise

Margaret McMahon, class of 1943 Manhattanville College and former executive with the New York City Health Department, died on April 2011 in New York City at the age of 89, leaving a generous legacy behind.

It was obvious that Margaret supported SOAR!, having attended the New York SOAR! Gala Dinner in 2008 when her friends, Sister Jeanne Burns, OP, and Sister Dorothy Burns, OP, were honored. However, to SOAR!'s surprise, Margaret had bequeathed \$50,000 from her estate to SOAR!, which was received on the same day as the New York dinner this year, four years after the tribute to her friends.

Margaret had a place in her heart and in her will for SOAR!; may she rest in peace. Perhaps you might have this same connection to aging religious and decide to remember SOAR! in your estate plans. All gifts, small or large, are appreciated and leveraged to make the grants program possible, giving generous support to aging religious like Sister Jeanne Burns, Margaret's friend.

There are many ways to give to SOAR!. You might consider joining Faithful Friends, a new giving program for friends and benefactors wishing to support SOAR! on a monthly basis. Becoming a monthly donor through automatic deductions from your checking account or credit card reduces administrative, paper, and postage costs for both SOAR! and you.

Other opportunities for planned giving include stock gifts, life insurance, retirement plans, trust arrangements, endowments, and gifts of real estate. Please visit our website, www.soar-usa.org, for more information about SOAR! and to explore all the ways in which you can donate. Your financial advisor can provide you with information specific to your situation. If you decide to make a gift to SOAR!, our legal title and other contact information are as follows:

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

Year-End Giving

Christmas and the year's end is a special time to reflect on our blessings. It's also a time for remembrance and giving. We invite you to remember SOAR! this year, giving a gift that will help in countless way.



Support Our Aging Religious

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 Lunsmann, IHM • Editor: Deborah Hudson Vornbrock

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

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