



SOAR! NOTES

Support Our Aging Religious

A NEWSLETTER OF SUPPORT OUR AGING RELIGIOUS, INC.

WINTER 2014



Annual Celebrations Highlight SOAR's Mission

SOAR! celebrated its New York award dinner on October 2, 2013 at the New York Athletic Club. The prestigious St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award, which recognizes excellence in leadership and generosity in the spirit of the country's first American female saint, was presented to Sister Patricia Codey, SC, President of the Catholic HealthCare Partnership of New Jersey. She is a noted supporter of Catholic healthcare and an advocate for policy concerns on the state and federal level. In her acceptance remarks, Sister Patricia asked us to focus on the story of the Good Samaritan and the question, "Who is my neighbor?"

The Father Victor Yanitelli Award was presented to Sister Joan Donovan, OP. Sister Joan is currently executive director of the Hurricane Sandy Project. In her stirring remarks, she reminded everyone attending that, "Each day is alive with hope and joy." She also thanked the laity for helping her and other religious to live out their calling.

The New York dinner committee was chaired by Walter Probst, one of SOAR's! most faithful friends and volunteers.

The Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium was the site of the November 1 SOAR! gala. There, Dr. Francis Butler received the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award. Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Butler was instrumental in founding SOAR! in 1986, and helped found The National Religious

Retirement Office, and The Center for the Study of Church Management at Villanova. After serving for three decades as the president of FADICA, Inc., he is now principal and founder of Drexel Philanthropic Advisors.

The Washington Dinner Committee was co-chaired by Rev. Richard DeLillio, OSFS and Michael Rodgers.

These galas raised significant donations to help support our aging religious. SOAR! is grateful for the kindness of all who were able to attend these events, and to all who could not be there, but were present in spirit. The generosity of SOAR! donors inspires its mission to ensure the safety and dignity of our elderly and infirm Sisters, Brothers and Priests.



The Annual NY award dinner: Top Left photo: Sister William McGovern, FDC and Bill Smith. Middle photo: Sister Joan Donovan, OP and Sister Kate Clancy, IHM. Top right photo: Walter Probst and Kathy Murnion. Bottom of page photo: Gary Horan, Sister Patricia Codey, SC, Esq. and Michael Maron.

Dear Friends of SOAR!,

I wish I could tell you in this short column the number of times that Sisters tell me they are praying for the wonderful people who support the mission of SOAR! The Sisters, Brothers and Priests who benefit from your generosity to SOAR! faithfully pray for you and your intentions with sincere and grateful hearts. When an elderly Sister rides a chair lift up three flights of stairs instead of walking, she says a prayer for YOU. When a priest can reach up from his wheelchair to push a button that opens the chapel doors in the monastery, he prays in gratitude for YOU. And when SOAR! is able to send funds to a convent that has been damaged by a fire, I am thankful for YOU!



It happened just a few months ago that SOAR! was able to help a group of Sisters whose convent had been damaged by fire. When I heard the news of this tragedy I was grateful to you, our dear benefactors, that SOAR! had enough funds in our account that I could send a check to help these Sisters immediately.

As I sit at my desk today, I am facing a pile of 50+ applications from congregations that need help in caring for their aging members. It is not their fault that they don't have the resources saved; the religious men and women who are now 80, 90 or even 100 years old were never paid retirement benefits for the good work they performed for all those years.

Please continue to help SOAR! to support not only the applications we have to answer soon, but the others that will arrive before the deadline next month. I trust in God's Providence and I trust in your continuing support. Thank you for helping SOAR! to make a significant difference in the lives of elderly Sisters, Priests and Brothers. Thank you for helping to bring dignity, comfort and peace to aging religious whom our Holy Father, Pope Francis, calls "true shrines of holiness."

In gratitude,

S. Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

The Annual DC Award Dinner



Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM presents the Rita Hofbauer Grant to Sister Donna Breslin, SBS



Dennis Lucey, Dr. Francis Butler, and Michael Rodgers



Emcee Andrea Roane and Joan Tillery

To view more photographs from the award dinners, visit www.soar-usa.org and click on Events

A Legacy of Love

Careful estate gift planning can help you protect and provide for the needs of your family and loved ones. Some people also choose to remember their favorite charities or causes in their will.

Writing a will can offer both you and your loved ones peace of mind. Make sure to consult with a qualified attorney before writing or updating your will.

We are grateful to all those who remember SOAR! in their estate gift planning. These wonderful people continue their partnership with SOAR! through their loving gifts. Their goodness insures that our Sisters, Brothers and Priests are not forgotten and will receive quality care.

Please let us know if you are remembering SOAR! in your will or other estate plans. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and does make a difference in the lives of our Sisters, Brothers and Priests in need.

Remembering SOAR! in your estate plans helps our religious live in safety, with dignity, and remain connected to their communities.

Please visit www.soar-usa.org to review SOAR's! legacy brochure or call our office at 202-529-7627. Danielle or Barbara would be happy to send you a copy.

Our legal title is [Support Our Aging Religious, Inc. \(SOAR!\)](#)
and our federal tax ID number is 52-1485481

Sharing Our Stories

“Go make disciples of all nations.” (MT 28:19)

Storytelling is the most powerful way to put ideas into the world today!

Sisters, Brothers and Priests, as the saying goes, are with us from “cradle to grave.” Their examples of love and care have taught us so much. In their ministries of education, healthcare, and social justice, just to name a few, they stand as witnesses to the Gospel and God’s living presence among us. They answered the call to serve all God’s people as teachers, nurses, and missionaries. We now must respond to the call of supporting them as they become older and are in need of care.

I attribute much of my success to the Catholic education I received from women and men religious. For many of us that sentiment may resonate. The mention of a particular order such as the Sisters of Charity, the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary or the Franciscans help us recall the foundations of our faith, and the practical knowledge we received from the Sisters. Religious women and men have sacrificed joyfully to enrich our lives. While we have an obligation to support them financially, it’s also much more. We need to tell our stories which are their stories; SOAR! helps us do that.



In Grateful Memory

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



Kevin N. Boland, USMC
Lenore and Mary Cavanaugh
Rev. Paul R.E. Francis
Alice E. Kramer
Edward Plesser
Ruth J. Whaland



By including SOAR! in their estate plans, these generous donors help SOAR! continue its mission in supporting aging religious and inspire us with their generous gift of love.

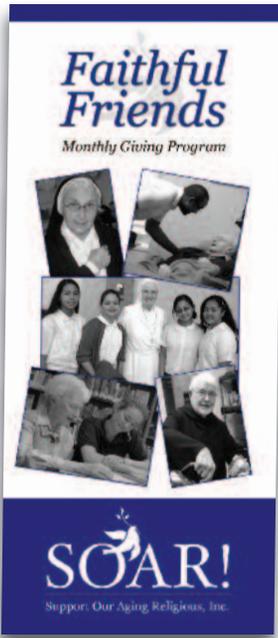
What’s your story?

Michael Coppotelli is a supporter of SOAR! and a member of the New York dinner planning committee. Michael is a parishioner of St. Charles Church in Staten Island, NY.



Michael Coppotelli, Sr. Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM, and Walter Probst

Sharing Our Stories is a new addition to our newsletter. If you would like to share a story about how religious have nurtured you and why you support SOAR!, contact us at info@soar-usa.org, send us a note in the mail, or call our office at 202-529-7627 and speak with Danielle or Elizabeth. We’d love to hear from you!



Become a Faithful Friend!

As we go to press, grant requests from religious congregations are starting to arrive at the SOAR! office. We rely on the generosity of all our friends in helping us achieve our goals.

Faithful Friends, a monthly giving program, is a simple and effective way to support SOAR! on a monthly basis. These automatic donations, which can come from your credit card or through a bank transfer, help SOAR! reduce administrative and paper costs, and allow your donation to go further in helping our elderly religious. Information on joining can be found online at www.soar-usa.org or you can call the SOAR! office at 202-529-7627 to sign up or to request an informational brochure.

2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 22, 2014 SOAR! Gala Dinner
Los Angeles, CA



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Other Ways You Can Help

Visit www.soar-usa.org

- Click on the **Donate Today** to make a secure donation.
- Visit "Other Ways to Give" to learn about
 - workplace giving
 - making a gift of stock or securities
 - including us in your will

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.

By Phone or Mail

If you prefer, you can contact our office to make a donation by phone: 202.529.7627 or by mail to:

Sister Kathleen Lunsman, IHM
President
SOAR!
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Washington, DC 20017



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

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: Elizabeth Góral-Makowski

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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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