



SOAR! NOTES

Support Our Aging Religious

A NEWSLETTER OF SUPPORT OUR AGING RELIGIOUS, INC.

WINTER 2014-15

Care ~ Commitment ~ Community

SOAR! donors help religious from coast to coast.

It's time for Mass, and just like religious congregations of Sisters, Brothers and Priests across the globe, the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell, New Jersey are heading to the chapel. Because of the renovations to the chapel, including flexible seating and improved lighting and sound systems, Sisters with walkers, wheelchairs, hearing aids or dimming vision can participate more actively in the community's life of prayer.

As a friend of SOAR!, your care and commitment to our aging religious helps ensure that Sisters, Brothers and Priests can remain in community. And you share in the love of their caring prayers for you.

On the other side of the country, the Sisters of Notre Dame are thankful for SOAR!'s support over the years. In 2014, SOAR! provided the Sisters in Thousand Oaks, California with a grant for specialized dining tables and chairs so that the Sisters with mobility issues can engage more fully and comfortably with the community at meal times. The Sisters are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the furniture in the New Year. Sister Mary AnnCarla Costello, SND, Provincial Superior for the Sisters of Notre Dame California Province says, "We, Sisters of Notre Dame are so grateful for SOAR!'s support as we provide for the needs of our aging Sisters. Through the generous support of SOAR! and its donors, we have been able to make many improvements in our provincial center to enable our Sisters to live in community for as long as possible. Your support has given them not only special reclining chairs and automatic door opening systems but mobility... and WINGS! We hold you in grateful prayer each day."

SOAR! receives a number of grants requests each year for automatic doors. In fact, the Dominican Sisters in Caldwell also were recipients of a past grant that provided automatic doors in their convent.

Automatic doors are a blessing to communities where there are Sisters, Brothers or Priests using walkers, wheelchairs, or scooters. These doors give them the



Top photo: Sr. Josanne Furey, SND in new reclining chair. Right photo: Sr. Antoinette Marie Moon, SND taking advantage of new automatic doors.

Photos Courtesy of the Sisters of Notre Dame California Province



independence of being able to freely move from place to place and not having to wait for or ask someone to help them with a door. And many of these religious are still active in various ministries like tutoring, counseling, or providing spiritual assistance. Imagine, not being able to get to work or an appointment on time simply because you can't open a door!

Religious orders across the United States count on SOAR! to help ease the burdens of costs for projects and items that will assure our beloved elderly and able to live in dignity and with peace of mind.

Back in New Jersey, at the St. Catherine of Siena Convent and Healthcare Center, the recent installation of an

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Pope Francis has dedicated 2015 as the Year for Consecrated Life. SOAR! joins in this special year focused on the lives of religious men and women who "Wake Up The World" with joy.

Please visit our website at www.soar-usa.org and click on our new feature "SOAR! Spotlight" to read about the lives of elderly religious we help and to share in prayer and bless your days with favorite prayers from our Sisters, Brothers and Priests. The "Spotlight" will be updated throughout the year. You can also be an advocate for SOAR! by "liking" us on Facebook and following us on Twitter.

www.facebook.com/soarusa and www.twitter.com/soarusa

Dear Friends of SOAR!,

Pope Francis' challenge to religious men and women to "WAKE UP THE WORLD" is the theme for the upcoming Year of Consecrated Life. Our Holy Father challenges all Sisters, Priests and Brothers in religious communities to "be witnesses of a different way of doing things, of acting, of living!" Pope Francis joins us in this call to live differently as he is a member of a religious order himself. Pope Francis made his vows in the Jesuit order in 1960.

Since 1986 SOAR! has been trying to "wake up the world" to the needs of our dear aging and infirm religious. And, I know that you have heard our call for help for you have responded most generously. Your financial support and prayerful concern for our elderly religious is a clear sign of your commitment to consecrated life.

The notes you send to me with your donation reflect your love and concern for the Sisters and Brothers you know. You often request prayers for vocations and blessings for the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill or the Mercy Sisters in Burlingame or the Brothers of the Holy Cross in South Bend.

You can help us celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life by praying for vocations to religious life; by praying for the communities of religious who had an impact of your life; participating in any programs in your parish that honor men and women religious; and, by continuing your support for aging religious by making a donation to SOAR!

In gratitude,



Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM



SOAR! Annual Awards Dinners

This fall, SOAR! celebrated its annual awards dinners in New York and in Washington, DC. The New York event was held on September 17 at the New York Athletic Club. Ziegler, a specialty investment bank and underwriters of financing for not-for-profit senior living providers, was honored with the Saint Katharine Drexel Award for making a national impact on the lives of women religious. The Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Awardee was Mr. James J. Landy, executive chairman of Hudson Valley Bank. Sister Florence Speth, SC, director of Fox House, which provides emergency housing for homeless women and their children, was presented the Father Victor Yanitelli, SJ, award. The award recognizes her active and creative service.

On November 7, the Washington, DC awards dinner took place at the National Museum of Women in the Arts. The Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Awards were presented to Very Rev. James J. Greenfield, OSFS,

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L to right: SOAR! Board chair Mike Rodgers, Saint Katharine Drexel awardees Dan Hermann (Ziegler) and Lynn Daly (Ziegler), Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM, Sister Florence Speth, SC, James Landy, Bishop John J. O'Hara, and SOAR! board member Bill Smith.

Photo credits: New York Gala: Bruce Byers



Sharing Our Stories

At the SOAR! office, we are blessed to hear so many stories of how religious have made such a difference in the lives of our grateful donors and their families. In this edition, we'll share *two* stories from donors and their commitment to supporting our aging religious.



Patricia Famiglietti is the proud mother of 8, grandmother of 14, and great-grandmother of 3. She has been a faithful supporter of SOAR! for 20 years.

They loved us, they led us and they taught us. Our elderly religious deserve to live the remainder of their lives in comfort and safety.

The Priests and Sisters have always played an important part in my family. When my parents moved to Washington, DC during the depression, the Priests were so helpful to my parents and to us. And some remained lifelong friends. Later, when I was widowed, the Priests and parish community again came to our assistance.

In elementary school, I was taught by the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Chestnut Hill and in high school by the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa. I received a fantastic education and was inspired by my teachers. One of the Sisters who taught me in high school went on to become a canon lawyer, and another had traveled so much, she made history come alive. Her experiences enriched us

Care ~ Commitment ~ Community, *continued...*

electronic medical records system, for which SOAR! provided a grant, has helped the community take a first step to transformed health care for the Sisters.

Sister Jane Marie Smith, OP, superior of the infirmary said, "We are so grateful for SOAR! and its donors. The new electronic medical records system has increased staff efficiency so they can provide the best care possible to our Sisters. And the Sisters in the infirmary have greater peace of mind knowing that they can rely on care that is expedient, coordinated and safe."



Nurse at Siena Covent & Healthcare Center.
Photo courtesy of the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell

Your continuing care and commitment to helping our aging and infirm religious is vital. Your generosity makes it possible for these faith-filled servants of God to remain with their communities, to engage actively in ministry, and, most importantly, be surrounded by care and love.

Sharing Our Stories, *continued...*

At this point in history, there are fewer vocations. It's doubly important to make sure that those who have dedicated their lives know that they are valued and that their service was and is significant. It is an honor for us -- who have been educated, nurtured, advised and helped in many other ways - and who may not have had the chance to say "thank you" to them when we were "younger," to do so now.

SOAR! Annual Awards Dinners, *continued...*



From left to right are: Mr. Dennis M. Lucey (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Awardee), Sr. Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM (SOAR! President), Very Reverend James J. Greenfield, OSFS (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Awardee) and Mr. Michael Rodgers, SOAR! Board Chair.

the current provincial for the Oblates of Saint Francis De Sales, and to Dennis M. Lucey, an executive at TKC Global, for their distinguished service-leadership and generosity in the Catholic community.

SOAR! was able to raise \$450,000 through these dinners to support our aging religious. SOAR! is grateful for the kindness and support of those who attended or contributed to SOAR! and its mission.



From left to right are: Sister Jeanne Veronique, Isp, Mother Mary Michael, Isp, Mrs. Genevieve Murphy, and Sister Celestine, Isp. The Little Sisters of the Poor received the Rita Hofbauer Grant at the dinner.
Photo credits: DC Gala: Eddie Arrossi

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

Other Ways You Can Help:

To learn of other ways you can be part of SOAR!'s mission, please visit us at www.soar-usa.org and click on **Give** or call us at 202-529-7627.



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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 Lunsmann, IHM Editor: Elizabeth Góral-Makowski

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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The Joy of Giving!

Christmas gives each of us an opportunity to reflect on our blessings and to share with others in so many ways. We hope that you'll consider remembering SOAR! this Holy Season and give a gift that shows you care. Your gift will bring comfort and joy to the hearts of aging Sisters, Brothers and Priests and their communities.

Ways that you can give before the year ends include:

*An *outright contribution* through check or credit card. Contributions are deductible in the year they are made. You can use the enclosed envelope or you can donate safely and securely online using either a credit card or your bank account information at www.soar-usa.org and click "Donate Today."

*A gift of *stocks, bonds or securities* may result in tax savings. If you give stocks or bonds that have appreciated in value, you get a tax deduction for the full current value and neither you nor the charity have to pay the capital gains tax on the increased value. Stocks or bonds that have decreased in value have a tax deduction for the current value; however, the charity still benefits. Stock gifts should be received at least 10 days prior to the close of the calendar year.

Your gift at year end will help provide for the safety and support of our aging religious Sisters, Brothers and Priests. Thank you for all you do to bless their lives!

If you have questions, please call the SOAR! office at 202-529-7627 and speak with Elizabeth Góral-Makowski.

Your gift made by December 31 may also help reduce your tax liability. In all matters regarding estate planning and planned charitable giving, please consult with your attorney or your professional financial or tax advisor.

Please consider remembering SOAR! in your will or estate plan. To review SOAR!'s legacy brochure, please go online at www.soar-usa.org or call the SOAR! office. Our legal title is Support Our Aging Religious, Inc. and our federal tax ID number is 52-1495481.

and made learning exciting.

Religious women and men have given their lives in service and with joy. There is no way I can fully pay them back for all they did for me and my family. Helping them in their time of need through SOAR! is one way I can say thank you.



Genevieve Murphy serves on the SOAR! Board, and is its Secretary. For more than 30 years, Genevieve worked in Federal Government Relations. After her studies at Georgetown University, she worked on Capitol Hill. From there she worked at the American Petroleum Institute for close to three decades. She loves retirement as it allows her to spend more time with the elderly and to raise funds for the causes close to her heart.

Religious have been an important part of my life and have made me the person I am today. I am so grateful for the Sisters of the Holy Cross and the Sisters of Providence who taught me in elementary school and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Philadelphia



In Grateful Memory

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

Henry Michael Curran

Joan Q. Dein

Paul F. Eble

Frank J. Fatur

Edward and Francine Fries

Jerry Patrick Sherle

Patricia Ann Smith

Mary Taylor

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.

who taught me in high school. The religious presence in my education extended to college where I was taught by Jesuits at Georgetown.

I've always had an affinity for the elderly, and to think that Sisters and Brothers do not have the proper resources to age in peace is a terrible thing.

SOAR!'s mission is so clear. It raises awareness and funds for the needs of elderly religious and delivers grants directly to congregations to help them care for their elderly members. The aid goes straight to helping the Sisters and Brothers and improving their lives.

For my husband, JD, and me, that's just one of the many reasons we are committed to SOAR!

The fact that SOAR! is led by a religious woman who understands and sees and relays that need is a plus for the organization, as is the staff commitment and minimal overhead. SOAR!'s board, which is composed of lay and religious, shares their expertise and is strongly committed to aiding aging religious.

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If you would like to share a story about how religious have nurtured you and why you support SOAR!, drop us a note or email info@soar-usa.org, or call 202-529-7627 and speak with Elizabeth Góral-Makowski.