

"Wherever there are men and women religious, there is joy!" ~Pope Francis

In their lives, the aging men and women religious we support at SOAR! continuously spread joy to those around them.

Even in retirement, **Sr. Joan Buckley, RSM, 85**, a Religious Sister of Mercy, is happy to share her passion for music when she plays the organ at daily Mass at McAuley Convent in Merion, Pennsylvania.

Sr. Theresa Malloy, SSC, 91, has dedicated her retirement to praying for others. Sr. Theresa, a Missionary Sister of St. Columban, endures her health challenges with a smile and doesn't let them get in the way of her service.

"Wherever there are consecrated people, seminarians, men and women religious, young people, there is joy, there is always joy!" Pope Francis said in a 2013 address to novices and seminarians.

"It is the joy of freshness, the joy of following Jesus; the joy that the Holy Spirit gives us, not the joy of the world."

Sr. Edmund McGourty, S.A., 97, a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement in Garrison, New York, spent 29 years of her ministry visiting the homebound sick and elderly. When she retired at age 94, (yes, 94!),

some of the people she visited were younger than her. What touched her heart most was the joy and gratitude of those she visited.

"In the world there is often a lack of joy," read a letter sent to consecrated men and women in preparation for the Year of Consecrated Life from the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

"We are not called to accomplish epic feats or to proclaim high-sounding words, but to give witness to the joy that arises from the certainty of knowing we are loved, from the confidence that we are saved."

It is in part because of our donors that these faithful servants of God, and so many other women and men religious, are able to thrive in their communities — and rejoice in them.

As aging Sisters, Brothers and Priests continue to live their vocation, the help you provide through SOAR! ensures their residences are safe and accessible. They count you among their blessings each day.

Thanks to SOAR! donors for bringing "Joy to the World" year-round.

Sr. Joan Buckley, RSM, age 85



Sr. Theresa Malloy, SSC, age 91



Sr. Edmund McGourty, S.A., age 97





Dear
Friends
of
SOAR!

In 2016 SOAR! reaches a milestone, the organization's 30th anniversary. Thanks to you, our faithful benefactors and supporters, SOAR! remains strong and our mission is still focused and clear – to help aging men and women religious.

The fact that we are celebrating 30 years of caring means that the need for which SOAR! was founded still exists. Today, 30 years since the financial crisis facing religious in the U.S. was brought to light, there are still congregations of religious that do not have sufficient funds to care for their aging members. And so we carry on . . . And thanks to your support, we continue to change lives and make a difference.

In its first full year of operation in 1987, SOAR! distributed grants to 11 congregations. In 2015 SOAR! awarded 61 grants. The outreach of SOAR! grows with each and every donation you send. Your financial support is the foundation of our 30 years of caring.

May your holidays find you wrapped in the warmth of Christ's love. Merry Christmas.

In gratitude,

S. Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM



**The new year marks
30 years since SOAR!
was founded in 1986.**

Thanks to our donors, we've helped thousands of religious over the years. Our aging religious need our help now more than ever.

Throughout our anniversary year, we'll be looking back on our past – and looking forward to sharing our mission with new generations. Watch our website at www.soar-usa.org for updates.

Sharing our Stories

Dan Fannin serves on the SOAR! board. Mr. Fannin retired in 2009 from World Vision International as the chief information officer, and he lives in Washington state with his wife Mary LaTourelle. His past positions include CEO at Shared Client Services, CIO for the state of Washington. He and his wife have three grown children and two grandchildren.



Dan Fannin came across SOAR! on the internet by "pure accident" one day a few years ago, and he and his wife have contributed to the organization ever since.

"Why wouldn't you want to show your respect and appreciation to our religious for their dedication and commitment?" he said.

"When I became aware that there was a crisis facing retired religious, my sense of justice said, 'Hey, that's not good,'" Mr. Fannin said. "They gave up everything to serve and now they need help for their care. I think it resonates with anybody."

Growing up, Mr. Fannin attended Catholic schools and his family was active in their parish; the Sisters, Brothers and Priests whom SOAR! helps were always part of his life.

"The religious had a big impact on our formative years. We formed relationships with them... you tend not to forget them," he said.

Now that he is retired, Mr. Fannin has more time to dedicate to charities. He was recently elected to the SOAR! board of directors. He said he's "excited about exploring the opportunities," and he hopes to raise SOAR!'s profile in the Pacific Northwest.

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.

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.



In Grateful Memory

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

Mary Kay Farley

Joan Q. Dein

Rev. Paul V. Redmond

Rita A. Nash

James E. Audino

Esperanza Inverso

SOAR! Legacy Society

We are grateful for the following people who have informed us that SOAR! is part of their estate plans:

Jose Andrade

Ellen Gavin

Michael Lake

Elwood Morton

William G. Bergan

Austin Henry

Joseph F. McCarthy

Rev. Vincent J. Sheehy

Barbara A. Busch

David Karas

Richard J. Meyers

Catherine Thompson

Deborah Dowling

Joseph Krizmanich

Daniel Moran

George Trovato

John Fackeldy

Please consider remembering SOAR! in your will or estate plan. To review SOAR!'s legacy brochure, please visit www.soar-usa.org or call the SOAR! office at 202-529-7627. Our legal title is Support Our Aging Religious, Inc. Our federal tax ID number is: 52-1485481

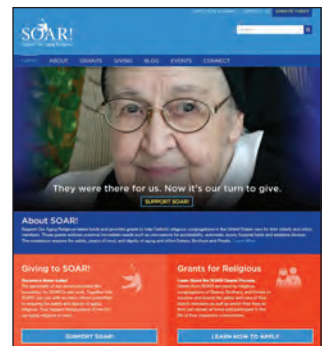


As we come to the end of the year, remember that your gift made by December 31 may also help reduce your tax liability. In all matters regarding estate planning and planned charitable giving, please consult with your attorney or professional financial or tax advisor.



SOAR! has a new look!

SOAR! launched its new website, www.soar-usa.org, this fall. The site's designed to be more engaging and easier to navigate for visitors. The new site is also optimized for a mobile or tablet screen size, which makes it easy to connect with SOAR! wherever you are. **Please check it out and share with your friends!**



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.

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This fall, SOAR! celebrated its annual gala dinners in New York and Washington, D.C.

Each year, SOAR! presents several awards at its gala dinners in New York, Washington, DC, and Southern California. The Father Victor Yanitelli Award acknowledges the service of a senior religious in the greater New York area; the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award is presented to individuals who have distinguished themselves by their leadership and generosity. This year, SOAR! also presented its highest honor, the Saint Katharine Drexel Award, which recognizes individuals or organizations that have made contributions on a national scale to the Catholic Church.

The New York event was held October 7 at the New York Athletic Club. The honorees this year were Msgr. Kevin Sullivan, the executive director for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, who received the Seton award; Sr. Margaret McDermott, OP, the executive director of the Tolentine-Zeiser Community Life Center, who received the Yanitelli award; and Deloitte, a professional services network, which received the Drexel award.

At the Washington dinner, held November 6 at the Embassy of Italy, SOAR! recognized retired Bishop William G. Curlin; Patricia McGuire, the president of Trinity Washington University; and John F. Treseler, a principal with John C. Grimberg Company, a Washington, DC based engineering and contracting firm. Treseler and McGuire received the Seton award and Bishop Curlin received the Drexel award.



From left is Joe Delaney, SOAR! New York dinner committee member, Kathryn Cabellero, SOAR! board chair, Stephen Gallucci, managing partner of Deloitte's New York office, Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, SOAR! president, and Bill Smith, SOAR! New York dinner committee chair.



From left is Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, SOAR! president, Sister Margaret McDermott, honoree, Kathryn Cabellero, SOAR! board chair, and Msgr. Kevin Sullivan, honoree.



From left is John Matteo, SOAR! D.C. dinner committee chair, honorees John Treseler, Bishop William G. Curlin and Patricia McGuire, and Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, SOAR! president and Kathryn Cabellero, SOAR! board chair.

Awards dinner photo credits: Bruce Byers (New York) and Eddie Arrossi (DC)

CELEBRATE WITH US AT THE SOAR! 30th ANNIVERSARY DINNERS!

SOAR! will hold its first gala dinner of 2016 in Orange County, California this spring. Join us May 7 at the Christ Cathedral Cultural Center in Garden Grove, California. For more details, visit www.soar-usa.org/events or contact Sister Kate Clancy, IHM at kclancy@soar-usa.org or 202-529-7627. **See you there!**

To view more pictures from the events visit www.soar-usa.org/events